جوردان تايمز يومية سياسيا صدر بالأنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والرايء

Vatican heads towards dialogue with PLO

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican said Monday it was stepping up its dialogue with Palestinians less than a month after its landmark recognition of Israel. An official statement said talks with a delegation Monday had been "the occasion for the start of a phase of more frequent contacts and a more official dialogue between the Holy See and Palestinian representatives." The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation met Monsignor Claudio Celli, the Vatican's under-secretary for foreign affairs who signed last month's accord with Israel which cleared the way for full diplomatic ties between the Holy See and the Jewish state. Zuhdi Nashashibi, a PLO Executive Committee member who headed the delegation, had said before leaving Tunis that he would raise concerns about the accord's implications for Jerusalem. The Vatican supports a Palestinian homeland and wants Jerusalem, holy to Islam, Christianity and Judaism, to be protected by an internationally guaranteed statute. Monday's statement said the talks, which discussed the Middle East peace process and the status of Jerusalem, were cordial.

Volume 18 Number 5515

AMMAN TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994, SHA'BAN 7, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

London protesters seek Arad release

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LONDON (AP) - Hundreds of demonstrators gathered opposite the Iranian embassy on Sunday to protest the captivity of an Israeli navigator whose plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986. Israel says he may be alive and in the hands of Iranian Revolutionary guards, based in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. "The fate of Ron Arad must not be forgotten during these vital days of Middle East peace talks," said organiser Joyce Simson. "We've got to remind people that he's still there." The crowd released 2,647 balloons - one for each day of Arad's captivity, she said.

Italy may delay polls

ROME (R) — The Italian government said on Monday it could extend voting in landmark general elections on March 27 to March 28 to try to overcome Jewish objections that the polls will coincide with the Passover holiday. An official statement said Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi had contacted the speakers of the two houses of parliament and that the government was ready to draft urgent legislave measures" that would allow observant Jews to vote.

Zhirinovsky sidelined in nominations

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian parliamentary leaders have blocked ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky from beading the influential foreign affairs commission, a position which he had wanted, handing him instead the chairmanship of a newly-created "geopolitical" commission. It was not immediately clear what the geopolitical commission would do. Mr. Zhirmovsky and fellow members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), who took the second largest number of seats in the lower house of parliament, also failed to get the key security and defence parliamentary chairmanships.

2 neo-Nazis for jailed attack on U.S. team

SUHL, Germany (AFP) -Two neo-Nazi youths were jailed Monday for a racist attack on members of the U.S. luge (toboggan) Olympic team at Oberdorf in eastern Germany last October that caused international outrage. Silvio Eschrich, 21, who admitted punching Duncan Kennedy several times, was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison. Tino Voelkel, 16, who said he only pushed the U.S. athlete, was sentenced to one

U.N. to release Aideed supporters

GENEVA (AP) - Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on Monday ordered the release of eight Somali faction fighters detained for attacks on U.N. soldiers last June. He also ordered all restrictions to be ted on the movement of er Jess and Hersi Morgan. two top aides warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed. The move

seemed designed to improve relations between the United Nations and General Aideed.

Pakistani, Saudi leaders urge Afghan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan President Farouq Ahmad Leghari and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd called for an immediate ceasefire in Afghanistan, in a joint communique issued Monday simultaneously from Jeddah and Islamabad. The communique followed talks between King Fahd and Leghari, who is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia. They urged the Afghan factional leaders to "fear Allah in what they are doing to their own people and homeland" and enforce an "unconditional ceasefire" throughout the country. The communique called for "faithful" implementation of power-sharing accords were signed by the Afghan factions in March last year in Islamabad and later in the Afghan city of Jalalabad. nell of Sta believed ha

Brown confident U.S.-Jordan

economic ties could be boosted

U.S. secretary ends visit saying Washington moving towards addressing Jordan's concerns

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown held talks here on Sunday with Jordanian leaders and said afterwards that he had made headway in his mission to explore avenues for closer Jordanian-American economic cooperation.

Mr. Brown, who arrived early morning and left for Israel late evening, said that during his talks he discussed means to enhance economic and commercial relationship with Jordan and that progress was made in Washington's quest to protect American intellectual property rights.

Mr. Brown also promised that "some action" would be taken soon to address Jordan's. concerns over the negative impact on its economy of the de facto blockade at Aqaba Port. He also said that Washing-

ton was currently reviewing possible debt relief for Jordan. That is an issue that has been raised with us and it is raised in every place we go,"

AMMAN (J.T.) --- Jordan has

been playing an active role

towards bringing about recon-

and is ready to embark on any

step that would contribute to

achieving that goal, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali

was quoted as saying Monday.

achieve Arab reconciliation

and is ready to do anything for

the sake of the Arab Nation,"

Dr. Majali said in an interview

published in the United Arab

Emirate's (UAE) Al Ittihad

cover all types of cooperation.

including political, economic,

His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States, the

prime minister said, aims to

give impetus to the peace pro-

cess which is now facing some

difficulties. The King is also

seeking to bolster the Jorda-

nian Armed Forces and will

conduct a comprehensive re-

view of Jordanian-U.S. rela-

In reply to a question, Dr.

Majali said Jordan appreciated

and supported UAE President

Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al

cultural and social."

tions, he said.

"A reconciliation should

newspaper.

"Jordan is doing all it can to

he said. "It is a complicated issue, there are some discussions going on at the present time. I know from the Jordanian perspectives (that) there is anxiety that those discussions be concluded at the ear-

Mr. Brown, who held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf as well as Jordanian business leaders, was the first American secretary of commerce to visit the Kingdom.
"This has been an extraor-

liest possible time."

dinary productive day," he told a press conference after the conclusion of official talks and described his meeting with the Crown Prince as "a meeting of depth... a meeting of

Dr. Khalaf told Jordan Television that Mr. Brown expressed high optimism during the talks that Jordan and the U.S. would be successful in their efforts to enhance economic

achieve Arab reconciliation

The prime minister de-

scribed Jordanian-UAR rela-

tions as brotherly ties and noted that Jordanians working

in the UAE have always been

treated on equal footing with

On Jordan's mediation to

end the dispute among the

leaders of Yemen, Dr. Majali

said His Majesty King Hussein

had delegated Royal Court

Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

to act as mediator carrying

royal messages to the Yemeni

"Jordan considers any suc-

cess of any Arab unity as suc-

cess for Jordan, which seeks a

greater Arab unity," he said.
"It is up to the Yemeni

brothers to resolve their prob-

lems amicably and Jordan

would spare no effort to help

ni leaders who had requested

the King's mediation, Dr. Ma-

iali said that the unity in Ye-

men concerns the whole Arab

World and not Jordan and

Commenting on coordina-

tion between Arab states in-

volved in the peace process,

Noting that it was the Yeme-

them do that."

the UAE people.

leaders.

increased American investment in the Kingdom.

Mr. Brown told the press conference that the United States considers the Middle East as an "extremely important" region and "will continue to reach out and play a con-structive role not only in the peace process, but also in economic growth, economic development and economic development all over the globe."

Answering questions, Mr. Brown rejected an implied suggestion that there could be a linkage between Washington's quest to remove the secondary and tertiary Arab boycott of Israel and the continuing de facto blockade of Aqaba port by U.S.-led enforcers of the international sanctions against

The two issues are not connected at all," he said flatly. "As far as the Gulf of Aqaba is concerned, I expressed Americans" sympathies and understanding for the economic consequences (of the blockade) on Jordan," he said.

'We are trying to find ways in

mitted to that coordination,

and it hopes that the Arab

parties will succeed in exchang-

ing land for peace in imple-

Council resolutions 242 and

Jordan's view entails the return

of the usurped land and water

rights and the end of suffering

of the people in the region," he

Commenting on the Olso

accord between Israel and the

Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO), he said that the

deal was meant as a declara-

tion of principles and Jordan

has no alternative but to sup-

port the Palestinians in their

Palestinians would reflect posi-

tively on us because we are

brothers and together form-

one nation," Dr. Maiali said.

Jordanian relationship, he said

that the people on the two

sides of the River Jordan

would have to decide on it and

determine the nature of union

between them when the time is

On the future Palestinian-

"Any gains achieved by the

drive to regain their rights.

entation of U.N. Security

"A just durable peace in

which we will continue, of course, to be in compliance with the U.N. resolutions and at the same time in such a way that it is devastating to the Jordanian economy.

"I think you should expect some action soon," he said at a later point when pressed on the same question. "... It is certainly a recommendation that I'll be making.'

Mr. Brown said he pressed his quest for an end to the Arab boycott of American companies dealing with Israel during his talks here.

"We would like to see the boycott and other impediments to free trade and commerce removed," he said. "My role as secretary of state, of course, is to focus on secondary and tertiary boycotts because they have a direct impact on American businesses and industry."

Jordan has said that it is too premature to discuss any lifting of the boycott before tangible progress is achieved in the Arab-Israeli peace negotia-

Continued on page 5)

Majali: Jordan trying hard to at least 22 in Los Angles

major earthquake rocked southern California before dawn Monday, sparking dozens of fires and destroying buildings and freeways, authorities said. At least 22 people were killed.

The 30-second tremor measured 6.6 on the Richter scale. It hit at 4:31 a.m. (1231 GMT), causing extensive damage in the San Fernando valley, a suburban area in northern Los

As firemen, rescue workers victims and restore order and services amid the chaos. California governor Pete Wilson Richard Riordan both declared

In Washington, President Bill Clinton pledged federal help and dispatched aides to California to coordinate assistance with local officials.

was in northridge about 32 kilometres northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The quake rumbled along the 80-kilometre length of the San Fernando Valley,

Earlier story on page 8.

Quake kills

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A

Angeles.

and police struggled to rescue called out the National Guard. He and Los Angeles Mayor states of emergency.

The epicentre of the quake

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday confers with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown in a meeting attended by

Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf

U.S. expects progress at next Israel-Syria talks

Damascus hails Geneva summit;

Israelis sceptical, but plan Golan poll

A SENIOR U.S. official, briefing Israeli leaders on the Clinton-Assad summit, said Monday he expected Israel and Syria to move forward when they resume their talks next

U.S. State Department Mid-dle East coordinator Dennis Ross said he believed Israel agreed with the U.S. assessment that the meeting of U.S.President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday broke new ground in the peace efforts. But a spokesman for Prime Jinister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel made no formal response at the briefing to Mr. Assad's pronouncement that he is ready for "normal peace-

ful relations among all. "The negotiations will resume in a more flexible forum with the heads of delegations. We should have and we would hope to see some movement and we think there's some potential," Mr. Ross told reporters after a 90-minute meet-

ing with Mr. Rabin. Israeli-Syria peace talks are due to reconvene next Monday, asked if there was any difference in the U.S. and Israeli view of Mr. Assad's statements, Mr. Ross replied: "I don't think there's a disagreement."

But the Israeli spokesman said: "It was mainly the Israelis asking questions and the Americans giving answers."

Arab governments praised President Assad's offer of peace with Israel, while Iran vowed to keep on fighting the Jewish state.

Israel, meanwhile, said it would eventually take the issue of an extensive withdrawal from the Golan Heights to a public vote and hinted that a ing the Golan has been Syria's overriding goal in the ongoing peace process.

"If the territorial price to be claimed from us in the Golan Heights is significant, the government will bring the issue to a referendum," said Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, speaking for the government in a lengthy parliament debate on the Golan.

Earlier Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the U.S.-Syria summit created a more promising air in the peace talks and hinted that Israel would have to weigh serious decisions about peace with Syria.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the summit left many questions unanswered: "The Syrians have already

spoken in the past of normalisation but the question is: How is this linked to the notion of peace? What's the agenda? And at what price to Israel?" At the Arab League in

Cairo, Deputy Secretary General Adnan Omran said the summit gave rise to optim-

"It is now clear that the United States showed understanding for the fact that res-Israel's total withdrawal from occupied Arab territories," said Mr. Omar, himself a Sy-

State-run Syrian newspapers splashed banner headlines across their front pages proclaiming the summit a "historical" breakthrough.

"The Geneva summit has rekindled hopes for realising lasting and genuine peace in the Middle East," the Tishrin

daily said in a page-one edito-The Al Thawra daily stres-

sed that Mr. Assad's offer was

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5) Dr. Majali said Jordan is com-Nahayan's initiative to restore Iraq marks Gulf war with defiance

BAGHDAD (Agencies) -Several thousand Iraqis marched through Baghdad on Monday shouting anti-American slogans and declaring loyalty to President Sad-dam Hussein on the third anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf war.

Whether (U.S. President Bill) Clinton and (Saudi Arabia's King) Fahd like or not, Saddam is staying in power for ever," they chanted, waving their fists and calling for re-

Iraq's youth federation brought in members from around the country, including Kurds wearing traditional bag-gy trousers who danced in circles around pipers and drummers and told reporters they came from the rebel provinces of Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaima-

Disabled veterans of the 1991 war drove their #heelchairs with one hand and waved Saddam portraits in the

Demonstrators with candles ers reported.

paraded two coffins - one draped with the American flag, the other with Britain's - to the door of a U.N. building in Baghdad.

The protest in downtown Baghdad began five hours after President Saddam went on nationwide television to vow that the Iraqi people would not "stand idly by during the continuation of the (U.N.imposed) blockade" and the "violation" of Iraqi airspace by U.S. and allied aircraft. Denouncing Western na-

tions and their Arab Gulf allies as "masters and slaves," President Said vowed to retaliate with "an eye for an eye and a tooth for tooth" in case of further "aggression." But he made no specific threats and did not say what form any "retaliation" might take.

Despite the anti-Western protests. Prime Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayyar said Sunday that Iraq wanted to renew ties with France, after breaking off diplomatic relations during the war, newspap-

He was speaking to a French parliamentary delegation. Members of the delegation,

on a private visit, said they would work on their return to France for a lifting of the U.N. sanctions in force since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August. 1990. (see page 2).
The Baghdad demonstra-

tors, mostly young men, hit the streets at 2:30 a.m. (2330 GMT), the time observed in Iraq as the start of the war on Jan. 17, 1991. "All Iraq shouts: Saddam is

my country's pride," was emblazoned on banners waved by the demonstrators. "With steadfastness and reconstruction, we can destroy the blockade," others said. Iraq has intensified its calls

for a lifting of the sanctions, which have halted many imports as well as exports of its vast oil reserves. In preparatory moves for any easing of the sanctions, last year Iraq reopened its one sea link, the Shatt Al Arab which leads to the Gulf. Earlier this month, it inaugurated a petrochemical

line, the overland tanker truck route to Turkey. The press used the war

anniversary to praise Iraq in splashy headlines of red, blue and green ink.
"The Iraqis prove now to the

world that they are a part of the industrial era, not as consumers of Western industries, but through the way they reconstructed their national industries despite the blockade," Al Thawra newspaper, voice of the ruling Baath Party, said.

"A new Iraq and a new Iraqi personality are emerging under the leadership of Saddam Hussein," Al Thawra added. Despite the 1991 military defeat, the war that President The last round of talks in

Saddam once termed "the mother of all battles" is billed in Iraq as "victory and triumph" over the United States and its allies. Al Qadisiyya, the Iraqi army

newspaper, asserted Monday that the economic blockade of Iraq "has started to disintegrate as a result of Iraqi self-

PLO sees accord likely on tough issues if Israel is serious

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior Palestinian official said Monday compromise is likely on issues holding back the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, provided Israel is serious about peace.

In comments distributed by the Middle East News agency. Hassan Asfour, head of the Palestinian security committee, said the next round of talks begins Tuesday in the Red Sea resort of Taba.

Speaking in Taba, Mr. Asfour said the negotiations will tackle remaining sticking points concerning security at border crossings to future Palestinian autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho. The talks also will focus on security zones around Jewish settlements to remain in the autonomous areas and on the size of Jericho, he said.

"Foremost among these subjects is the control over border crossing points," Mr. Asfour said. "Control of these points is at the heart of the internal Palestinian security function.'

Taba ended last Wednesday with agreement on 35 of the 38 areas of Palestinian civilian control. But it saw little progress on the security questions mentioned by Mr. Asfour.

This week's round was to have begun Monday but was: postponed due to the absence of chief negotiator Nabil

Shaath. He flew to Tunis at the weekend to brief Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In Tunis, the PLO cautiously welcomed the outcome of the weekend summit between President Bill Clinton and Svrian President Hafez Al Assad. and called for renewed Arab coordination on negotiations with Israel.

The call for fresh Arab coordination is the first hint of PLO concern that a separate Syria-Israel accord could strengthen Israel's position in its negotiations with the Palestinians (see

page 2).
"If these results open the door for a just peace leading to the implementation of resolutions 242 and 425 concerning Syria and Lebanon, then we welcome them," PLO Executive Committe member Yasser Abed-Rabbo said.

"We (would then) believe that they (the results) will constitute a supporting factor in the hard negotiations going on the Palestinian track," Mr. Abed-Rabbo told Reuters.

Mr. Assad broke new ground in the peace process on Sunday when he announced that Syria could have "normal peaceful relations," with Israel under a peace agreement.

Mr. Clinton, at a joint news conference with Mr. Assad after more than five hours of talks in Geneva, welcomed Syria's attitude to peace and

said Israel should respond. But Mr. Abed-Rabbo said the PLO, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt should resume lished at the start of the U.S.brokered peace conference in Madrid in 1991 in which negotiations were held on separate

"The new stage in the negotiations and particularly the difficulties we expect on all the tracks require the resumption of coordination between the five concerned Arab parties... in a way that there will not be negotiations (that are) easy and others difficult." Mr. Abed-Rabbo said.

The "five" have not met since the PLO and Israel signed a declaration of principles in September for limited Palestinian interim self-rule in . the West Bank and Gaza and started negotiating on its implementation.

Syria and Lebanon reproached the PLO at the time of the secretly negotiated deal, accusing it of not keeping them informed and going off at a tangent. The PLO responded that its negotiations for the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were to start

only within three years. Syria softened its stance last week when it joined Gulf

(Continued on name 5)

Palestinians fear **Syria-Israel peace**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Many Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories say they fear being left in the cold if Sunday's Clinton-Assad summit leads to a thaw in peace moves between Israel and Syria.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, wary of offending Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, have publicly brimmed with optimism about his Geneva summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Progress on any Middle East peace track is progress on all tracks, the officials said.

But many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip worry that Mr. Assad, who was outraged when the PLO negotiated a peace deal with Israel behind his back, may feel he no longer has to resist U.S. and Israeli pressure to make peace with the Jewish

"Many people are afraid Syria will make peace with Israel and then Israel will have absolutely no reason to make concessions to the Palestinians. We will be even more squeezed," said Jamal Mashal,

a lawyer from Jericho. Since 1948, Israel has tried 'divide and rule' with the Arabs. Now they are close to achieving it," he said.
For decades, Syria under Mr. Assad was Israel's arch-

foe, sticking doggedly to Arab nationalist ideology.

But there have also long been signs Mr. Assad is ready for peace at the right price. And the price may have dropped since, as he sees it, his old adversary PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat broke Arab ranks and signed a separate peace with Israel last year.

In Gaza last week, many Palestinians attributed delays

By Andrew Tarnowski

Reuter

BEIRUT - Lebanon's Soli-

dere flotation shows Prime

Minister Rafik Al Hariri can

get things done against deter-

mined opposition, Beirut bankers and economists say. Money and confidence were

returning to the country wreck-

ed by 15 years of civil war.

can get things done. That's

Al Haj, chairman of the Arab

Finance Composition and a for-

mer fund manager for Mr.

dere in the market was enor-

mous. Very intelligent and

sophisticated people forecast

the doom of solidere initially.

But Hariri has shown it is

lion, well over its \$650 million

target for the reconstruction of

Beirut's central district shat-

tered by the 1975-90 war. It

may have been the biggest

corporate flotation in the Mid-

Nearly \$600 million came

from deposits held by

Lebanese overseas, accelerat-

ing a year-old trend towards

capital repatriation and

squeezing out most of the

\$320 million subscribed by

Beirut banker. "The Lebanese

are intent on bringing back

two or three years ago I don't

think we would have got the

same result because there is

'It's a terrific thing." said a

'If this issue had taken place

non-Lebanese Arabs.

expatriate capital.

17:30 19:00 19:15

20:00 20:30 21:10 22:00

22-20

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The issue raised \$926 mil-

viable," he said.

dle East.

The scepticism around Soli-

Hariri.

"Hariri has shown that he

Hariri scores political

success through Solidiere

in Israeli-PLO talks on an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho to the summit.

Attacks

Western

missions

in Tehran

Khalq.

TEHRAN (AFP) - Western

embassies in the Iranian capital

have been targetted in a wave

of attacks in the past two weeks, blamed by the govern-

Simultaneous petrol bomb

attacks were carried out against the French, Britsh and

Russian embassies at dawn on

Jan. 5. and some structural

damage was caused when shots

were fired at the British

On Thursday morning, two

bombs exploded near Ferdowsi

Square, not far from the

embassies, injuring three

passers-by and damaging

shops. One of those injured

died in hospital on Saturday.

Police have arrested 17 sus-

pects in connection with the bombings and Sunday's attack.

four of whom were released

after preliminary interroga-

tion, the official news agency

Arms and ammunition were

IRNA said.

embassy last Sunday.

target

They accused Israel of stailing to see if movement from Syria would strengthen its position with the Palestinians.

Publicly, Palestinian politicians of all hues were upbeat about the meeting, careful to keep on the right side of Mr. Assad who is now the key power broker in Middle East

"We are not worried at all, to the contrary, we have al-ways said real peace has to be comprehensive peace and that includes Syria. Any progress for Syria is progress for us," Saeb Erekat, a PLO negotiator, told Reuters.

Mahmoud Ai Zohaar, a spokesman for the Muslim furtdamentalist group Hamas, was just as optimistic, telling Al Quds newspaper Syria would not yield to U.S. pressure to close down Syria-based Palestinian groups opposed to the Israel-PLO deal.

But newspaper editorials seemed as much aimed at persuading themselves as anybody else that they wily Assad would not be lured into deserting the Palestinian cause by Mr. Clinton and the prospect of fully entering the international com-

taking part today in Geneva,

they are a basic part of these negotiations."

more confidence now," he

Solidere will start work by

June, company chief Nasser

Chamaa said. All tender docu-

mentation for construction

contracts is ready for immedi-

ate issue after the company is

and other sources said trading

in the shares on a new Beirui

secondary market, originally

expected to start this month,

may not begin until March

Officials at Societe Finan-

ciere du Liban SAL, which will

operate the market under cen-

tral bank authority, say it will

be ready by mid-February.

SFL is setting up the compute-

rised market floor on Riad Al

Solh. Beirut's former banking

The exchange, designed by

Andersen consulting who

prepared the Riyadh stock ex-

change and others, is now

In the meantime, dealers re-

port grey market demand but

no supply since share alloca-

tions are not finalised. On Fri-

day, five days after the issued

closed, they quoted prices of 110-112 to 110-115 for the 100

Nabil Aoun, chairman of

Opposition came chiefly

from Beirut property owners angered by the expropriation

of their rights and from Muslim

clerics who denounced the

share issue as a sinful usurpa-

tion.

Fidus SAL investment house.

said Mr. Hariri scored a big success in overcoming political

opposition to the project.

shares but no deals.

being tested.

dures may take that long.

ie incorporation proce

However, company officials

seized .from the suspects. Several of them confessed to links with the Iraq-based "Syria has not abandoned. Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, and said at least in public, its (Arab) they had received instructions nationalist positions which to "carry out" sabotage activi-ties throughout Tehran." it means the Syrian regime under Hafez Al Assad cannot change its position from refusing to The rebel group has denied

enter a separate peace into entering it," said Al Nahaar involvement in any of the inci-Police on Saturday accused But it added: "It is clear that even if Israel's rulers are not

"fanatic and perverted ele-ments" with links to the Mujahedeen of carrying out the bombings and Sunday's attack on the British embassy. The "terrorists" had beliefs

contrary to Islamic principles and the clerical spirit of the 1979 revolution, the statement The Mujahedeen were also said to be behind grenade

attacks against the French embassy and Air France office in Tehran just over two months ago as well as the hijacking of an oil ministry plane to Iraq in late November.
It was the first time the

authorities had used the terms "fanatics" and "anti-clergy" to describe the attackers. The officials imposed a new

black-out on the embassy attacks up until Thursday. The bombings prompted the authorities to end their silence and speak out against "conspiracies aimed at undermining" Iran's relations with West-

ern countries. On Saturday, the Tehran Times, quoting an Interior Ministry source, said the names of those responsible and details of their activities would soon be published.

Diplomats in Tehran said on Sunday that the government's silence could be due to the "awkward position" it had been placed in because of the

"Such incidents are not helpful when the authorities are trying to convince the world that Iran is a safe place for investment," they said.

The Tehran Times, which often reflects the views of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, earlier called for tighter security around foreign embassies to "forestall any attempts at sabotaging fran's diplomatic achievements."

"It is necessary to prevent the type of incidents which create doubts regarding the political stability and security of the Islamic Republic." if said on Wednesday.



A group of young Iraqis as part of a 10,000-strong demonstration held placards of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as they took to the

streets in Baghdad early Monday to mark the third anniversary of the start of the Gulf war. (AFP photo)

'Moments of tension in Geneva'

GENEVA (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad treated U.S. President Bill Clinton Sunday to a five-hour taste of his chess-player style of di-

American officials wondered ahead of the talks how their boss would fare against the measured, precise Assad at a time when Mr. Clinton was tired from traversing six na-tions in eight days and concentrating mainly on policy towards Europe and Russia

"I had heard a lot about President Assad's legendary stamina in these meetings. Mr. Clinton told reporters. And when we called a break four hours and 20 minutes into our meeting. I can tell you that his reputation does not exceed the reality. He deserves every bit of it."

The meeting took place in a conference room at the heavily guarded Intercontinental Hotel on a rainy day in Geneva. For four hours and 26 minutes they talked with top aides present, staring across at each other with a long table separating them.

Then they moved to a side room and more comfortable chairs and talked for 50 minutes with only interpreters present.

scribed Mr. Clinton as "fascinated to be meeting with this somewhat notorious characters" for the first time after exchanging phone calls and letters.

Mr. Clinton, the official said, established a level of rapport with Mr. Assad sufficient to "transact the business of this

meeting."
"Assad was in good form,"
said one senior official. "He is a very interesting and challenging negotiator. He is very precise, very careful and very measured in what he says public-

Another official said there were "moments of tension" when Mr. Clinton pressed Mr. Assad on the U.S. charge that Syria supports groups the American regard as "terror-

Mr. Clinton specifically wanted Assad to pressure Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to turn over for trial two Libyans suspected in the December 1988 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland of the Pan Am jetliner that killed 270 passengers and people on the ground.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt pays 'repentant' militant \$6,000

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian Interior Ministry has paid a militant 20,000 pounds (\$6.000) for leaving a radical group involved in anti-government activities, police said Sunday. Adel Mohammad Abdul Baki, a key member of Al Shaw-qiyeen which is based primarily in Faiyum southeast of Cairo, had decided to leave the organisation and declared he had repented by condemning its activities, they said. But police provided no details on the conditions surrounding his surrender or any possible charges that may be brought against him. Last month the ministry gave out rewards of 100,000 Egyptian pounds (\$30,000) to three people who provided police with information on a fundamentalist involved in a carbomb attack that almost killed Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki on Nov. 25. The ministry recently announced it would pay 100,000 pounds to any person providing information leading to the arrest of a wanted fundamentalist.

Sudanese university vice-chancellors

KHARTOUM (AFP) - Sudanese President General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has sacked the vice-chancellors of the University of Khartoum and of the Sudan University for Science and Technology (UST), the official SUNA news agency reported. The report said Professor Mamoun Mohammad Ali Humaida had been dismissed from the University of Khartoum and Prof., Ahmad Al Amin Abdul Rahman from the UST. No reasons for the dismissals were given.

Abuses linked to 676 deaths in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) - Human rights abuses have reached an alarming level in Turkey, where at least 676 people were killed and 28 disappeared last year, the Turkish human rights association said Sunday. The association said 524 people were killed by unidentified attackers mostly in the east and southeast of the country. Among them was Kurdish Deputy Mehmet Sincar, who was gunnmed down in his hometown of Batman by suspected separatist guerrillas. Another 135 people were killed in what the association called "arbitrary executions" by the security forces. At least 17 people died under torture, the association said, calling for stronger measures to ensure that human rights abuses are not carried out in prison. The association also said 28 people disappeared after being inded in custody by police while security torces often claimed they vanished after they had been freed. According to the group. 51 journalists are being held, four political parties have been closed down and two are being subjected to legal challenges and 260 books and 23 newspapers were banned.

Egypt backs Indonesia U.N. bid

JAKARTA (AFP) - Egypt backs Indonesia's bid for a non-permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council and will consider supporting its bid to chair the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for another term, the official Antara news agency said Monday. Visiting Egyptian International Cooperation Minister Yousef Boutros Ghali, attending a three-day meeting of the Indonesia-Egypt joint commission, said Cairo thought highly of Indonesia's economic reforms and saw them as a viable model for other NAM members. Indonesia has chaired the 108-member NAM Since September 1992. It's term is due to expire in 1995. Dr. Ghali, who is heading a delegation of 16 businessmen, said Egypt backed Jakarta's bid for non-permanent membership at the U.N. Security Council, as developing countries needed an advocate among international decision makers.

Iragis ask Israel for political asylum

TEL AVIV (AP) - Two Iraqis crossed into Israel from Jordan over the weekend and asked the Jewish state for political asylum, Israeli media reported Monday. The daily Haaretz said the two men, aged 30 and 35, snuck into Israel from Jordan near the Dead Sea then surrendered themselves to soldiers in the area. The soldiers questioned the two men, then handed them over to police, who will ask the Beersheva magistrates court to extend their detention to allow further international. Haaretz said.

French MPs to work for lifting of Iraq embargo

BAGHDAD (AFP) — French lawmakers on Sunday ended talks in Baghdad, promising to work on their return for lifting U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq more than three years ago, the delegation said.

European Parliament Memher and former French army Chief-of-Staff Jeannou Lacaze told AFP the delegation would strive for a lifting of the embar-go slapped on Iraq four days after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

General Lacaze, who de-scribed his talks with Iraqi officials as "very positive," said the delegation would "present several proposals reflecting the Iraqi viewpoint," but gave no details on the issues to be raised.

He said his team supported an easing of restrictions, notably on medical products. The delegation had decided to donate five tonnes of powdered milk to Iraqi infants. he added.

The French delegation, which left Monday for Amman, met Sunday with Prime Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayar and Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh. A French official said Friday the visit was "a personal initiative and that it does not com-

represent a change in policy towards Iraq. He added that France was still for Iraq's implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions on dis-

armament

mit the French authorities" or

Franco-Iraqi ties were se-vered at Baghdad's initiative during the Gulf crisis to protest France's participation in the international coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait after seven months of occupation. Iraqi newspapers reported Friday that Deputy Prime

cussed the possibility of restoring diplomatic ties between Baghdad and Paris with the lawmakers. The delegation, which arrived Thursday, was led by Senator Serge Mathieu, head

Minister Tared Aziz had dis-

of the Franco-Iraqi Friendshin Association.

It also held talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf.

Kurds call for pressure

The Kurds of northern Iraq called Sunday on the United Nations to pressure Baghdad to resupply the Dohuk region with electricity after a sixmonth cut.

But Iraq said the U.N. embargo prevented it from buying spare parts to carry out repair work.

The Kurds, in a letter to U.N. representatives in Dohuk, called on the world body "to put serious pressure" on the Iraqi regime to supply the governorate with electricity. as soon as possible.

"If not we won't be able to prevent riots in a rather big dimension." they warned, The spokesman for the local

committee which sent the letter. Ramadan Issa, told AFP in the town of Zakho that more than 50 children had died last summer in one month alone because of the power cut.

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But in Baghdad, the head of the electricity authority. said it was not to blame.

"The hydroelectric station at the Saddam Dam which supplies Dohuk with electricity was destroyed" during the 1991 Gulf war, said Jaafar Zia Janfar, an adviser to President Saddam Hussein.

"But our order for spare parts was not accepted by the U.N. sanctions commission. he said, charging that Kurdish sabotage was also to blame. The U.N. coordinator of

humanitarian activities in Iraq. Mohammad Zejjari, said in October that the United Nations wanted to send an expert to inspect power plants in Iraqbut he was not given a visa.

The north is cut off from the rest of Iraq since the Kurds took over the region after the war for Kuwait and set up their own administration. in de-

Rose Al Yousef publishes parts of 'Satanic Verses'

CAIRO (AP) — For the first time in Egypt, a weekly maga-zine published excerpts from Salman Rushdie's banned novel "The Satanic Verses" Sunday in a test of government plans to loosen controls over the arts.

The liberal magazine Rose of other banned works, including one by Nobel Literature Laureatc Naguib Mahfouz. and an impassioned plea for eliminating_religious control over what Egyptians read. Culture Minister Farouk

Hosni announced plans Friday to curb the powers of state censor Hamdi Sorour by creating a panel of intellectuals -- a higher committee of censorship - that would tell him

By giving intellectuals the final say in censorship policies for non-religious works, the government hopes to counter the growing power of Islamic leaders and a campaign of violence by Muslim extremists against seculad rule. The Culture Ministry's cen-

sorship department screens non-religious works to ensure they conform with traditional norms and cause no political or security problems. Still, books or artistic mate-

rial that touch on Islam must be approved by Al Azhar, Islam's oldest, most prestigious theological institute.

"Farouk Hosni is trying to outmanoeuvre the censor in a

17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

battle between fundamentalists and the literati," said Mustafa Darwish, a movie critic, onetime censor and prospective member of the planned committee.

"The government is waging a battle on all fronts, security, political, economic and artis-

Extremist-related violence has killed more than 280 people in two years, among them secularist writer Farag Foda. Militants have attacked movie houses and theatres, which they view as un-Islamic, and made known that journalists and intellectuals were at the top of their hit list.

'The Satanic Verses" is regarded as blasphemous by many Muslims, Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Mr. Rushdie in 1989; he remains in biding, with occasional public appearances.

Al Azhar has wielded enormous power over cultural life. It has banned books, influелсеd television advertisments and even health messages.

Two years ago, Al Azhar and Coptic Christian clergymen joined forces to ban the mention of extramarital sex in a televised message on AIDS prevention. Intellectuals agree that while

rules on political expression have relaxed over the past decade. Al Azhar has been getting the last word on more and more material.

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The Evangelical Local Church Interpretation of Nazarene Tel.675691.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
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ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

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official

praises

role in

peace

process

Assistant Deputy Foreign Minister for Africa and the

Middle East Marc Perron,

who today (Tuesday) winds up a two-day visit to Jordan

and leaves for the West

Bank, praised the Kingdom's

role in the Arab-Israeli peace

As part of a Middle East-

ern tour to discuss the status

of Palestinian refugees in the

diaspora, Mr. Perron, who is

involved in the working

group on refugees in the

multilateral phase of the Mideast peace negotiations,

discussed the needs of re-

fugees in Jordan at a meeting Monday with Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs Tal-

The Canadian official, who

has been to Lebanon and

Syria before coming to Jor-

dan (three countries hosting

Palestinian refugees), has

also met with senior officials

at the United Nations Relief

and Works Agency (UN-

RWA) to discuss additional

needs of the refugees,

according to a Canadian

embassy official here Mon-

The Jordan News Agency,

Petra, quoted Mr. Perron as

expressing appreciation for

Jordan's role in the peace

process and its positive con-

tributions to the establish-

ment of stability and security

in the region, particularly its

active participation in the

working group on the re-

fugees which last met in

with the refugee question.

al Al Hassan.

Jordan's



s Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Regent, and Her Royal Highness Prin-

ess Sarvath Monday plant a tree at Al Iussein National Park (Petra photo)

legent, Princess Sarvath plant trees) inaugurate Al Hussein National Park

MMAR (Petra) -- His Royal ighness Crown Prince Hasn, the Regent, Her Royal ghness Princess Sarvath and large gathering of citizens d members of diplomatic ssions in Amman, Monday wed-in the inauguration of Hüssein National Park, nh east of Amman by planttrees on the site.

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Aonday Sunday Sunday

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raising the Amman Municiity and the Ministry of Agrilture for jointly immenting the project, loed mear Abu Alanda, the nce urged every family and zen in Jordan to plant trees as many areas as possible.

n a brief speech at the set of the ceremony Prince ssan conveyed to the audiæ greetings from His Majes-King Hussein saying that e-planting would help fulfil

Monarch's call to green dan by the year 2000. Inderlining the importance trees to the soil and as a rce of food, Prince Hassan that the Arab World curfly imports \$100 billion th of food simply because. he shortage of production disregard for the interac-

AMAN - The United Na-

ns has adopted two pro-

is to rehabilitate deep

lls, springs and related

nals in the occupied

lestinian territories and se-

red grants, loans and local

ding to cover the financ-

According to two reports

eased by the Economi

1 Social Commission for

estern Asia (ESCWA

gricultural Division), the

abilitation of springs our

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This payment for the ro-

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The project for the reabi-

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The project propoil has

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: next five years an to dig

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a total cost, over he five

ir period, of \$6.5.nillion.

According to the project

sposal, made avalable to

Jordan Times, the cost of

rehabilitation ofvells will

local farmers.

it of \$2,700,000.

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of these projects.

tion between fater, energy and environdent-related

Referring to Al Hussein National Park, et up on 1,248 dunums, Prine Hassan said the project w/ the fulfillment of a long chrished desire to establish a ten belt around the capital h a bid to stem desertification.

This priect compensates Amman or the loss of its agriculturi land on the western side of the city and is designedas a drive to protect agricultral land, the environment ad water resources in the easern side, noted Prince

Praing Amman Municipality for reating a park benefit-ing th capital's residents, the Princespressed hope that private stitutions would join hands ith the municipality in its drie to green the city and

Annan Mayor Mamdouh Abbdi accompanied the Cron Prince on a tour of the site which, he said, is being plated with 30 types of trees an watered from a local arresin well via a drip-irrigation

be covered by the well own-

nal sources (\$3.75 million).

mic status of well owners,

some portions of the cost of

operations will be on the

basis of grants and some por-

The two projects were trig-

gered by the fact that the

population of the West Bank

and the Gaza Strip depend

completely on rain water for

The annual rainfall ranges

from a minimum of 150-200

mm in the east and south to

600mm in the north. Accord-

ing to ESCWA reports, the

Palestinians use 100-110 mil-

lion cubic metres in the West

Bank, and out of this 33

million cubic metres is

pumped from wells for agri-

. In the Gaza Strip, the wa-

ter used for irrigation from

the wells is about 70 million

According to the report, there are between 300-400

springs in the West Bank, of

which 121 could be measured

for flow. The main springs in

the West Bank are located in

the eastern slopes in the

direction of the Jordan Val-

ley, and their annual flow is

estimated at 57 million cubic

The bulk of the water of

these springs is used for

cultural purposes.

cubic metres.

tions in loans.

Because of the poor econo-

Noting that the project cost the municipality JD 1.4 mil-lion, Dr. Abbadi said that it is hoped that the park, which is to be planted with at least 120,000 trees, would serve as a strong barrier to desert dust from the east.

He said the park has a nine kilometre road network and the trees are constantly watered through eight huge water towers that feed the drip irriga-

The park, which has administration facilities and a control tower, is surrounded by a 6,000-metre long barbed wire fence for protection, according to Dr. Abbadi.

To drain away rain water, he said, the municipality has built several culverts and taken other measures to prevent soil erosion in the park.

Among those attending the tree-planting celebration, which marked Jordan's observance of Arbor Day this year, were Cabinet members, Parliament deputies, ambassadors and other officials who took part in planting trees supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture.

irrigation in the Jordan Val-

The report, which points

out that the discharge of

these springs decreases in

summer and autumn when

water is most needed for

irrigation, said "the only reli-

able source of irrigation in

both the West Bank and

Gaza Strip is the water ex-

tracted from the wells drilled

There are some 370 wells

in the West Bank and some

1,900 in the Gaza Strip used

both by Palestinians and the

are from (20-50 metres),

while those in the West Bank

range from 50-150 metres

deep, but may go as deep as

250 metres for agricultural

purposes and up to 800

Close to 40 per cent of the

wells in the West Bank are in

the areas of the Jordan Val-

But the report indicates

that the conditions of the

wells are "very unsatisfac-

increase agricultural produc-

tivity and the profitability of

the farm family by increasing the efficiency of irrigation.

lowering the cost of pumping

water from deep wells and by

expanding the land area

The two projects aim to

metres for domestic use.

The wells in the Gaza Strip

deep into the ground."

Israeli settlers.

Tunis late last year. Mr. Hassan voiced Jordan's gratitude for Canada's contribution to the peace U.N. to rehabilitate wells in West Bank process and its efforts to deal

He said Jordan is actively concerned with the question of the refugees and the dis placed persons, noting that the Kingdom has been shouldering heavy responsibilities towards those residing in Jordan.

Mr. Hassan said Jordan was seeking to provide improved services to the refugees while protecting their political rights, including their right to return to their homeland or their compensation in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

'94 budget provides for housing —JVA

GHOR SAFI (Petra) - The 1994 fiscal budget provides JD 40 million for the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), registering a 56 per cent increase over allocations made in 1993, and a major portion of the budget is to be used to finance housing and dam-building projects, according to Abdul Aziz Wishah, JVA secretary gener-

Speaking during a tour of the southern Jordan Valley region, Dr. Wishah said the government hopes to offer each family in the region a housing unit or a plot of land on which to build a home on stateowned land in the Jordan Val-

For its part the JVA is prepared to facilitate these plans by distributing the lands to local farmers, said Dr. Wishah.

Furthermore, the government plans to appoint workers for the JVA from local residents and is cooperating in this regard with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), explained Dr. Wishah who was speaking at a meeting with local department heads in Karak governo-

Noting that the government, through the JVA, was sparing no effort in search of additional water resources, Dr. Wishah said that plans have been endorsed for the construction of dams in the southern Jordan

Valley. At the meeting, organised by the local chapter of the Arab Youth Forum, discussion covered education, health and agricultural services to local

Canadian Islamic-Christian dialogue to focus on religions' stand vis-a-vis nationalities

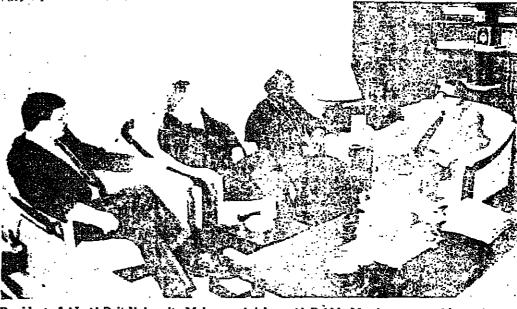
AMMAN (Petra) --- His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, today (Tuesday) will open an Islamic-Christian dialogue on religions' stand vis-a-vis nationalities, which is to be attended by delegates from 16 Islamic and Christian nations.

The dialogue, the fourth to be organised by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AL Al Bayt Foundation) is aimed at helping to promote cooperation and enhance links among va-rious faiths, according to AL Al Bayt Vice President Abdul Aziz Ál Khayat.

Held in cooperation with the Vatican Council on Promoting Relations with other Faiths, the three-day meeting will dis-cuss several research papers focusing on Muslims' and Christians' stand vis-a-vis nationalities religion in the contemporary age, challenges and issues facing relations between religions and nationali-ties and other related topics.

The meetings, initiated in 1984 by Crown Prince Hassan. aim at bringing the followers of the two faiths closer-together and enabling them to work for a common cause, said Dr.

Among the main speakers in the opening session will be



President of AL Al Bait University Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit Monday meets with visiting Cardinal Francis Arinze of the Vatican

Justice Minister Taher Hikmat who will present a paper on the relationship between religion and nationalities, as well as challenges currently facing the two religions, according to Dr. Khayat.

These papers, he added, will prove that there can be no contradiction between religions and nationalities, and in fact, religion can help prevent any inclination towards bigotry, racism and extremism or ethnic hatreds.

The series of meetings between representatives of the Christian and Islamic faiths have contributed to bolstering relations between scholars of both faiths and encouraged

them to pursue their efforts, said Dr. Khayat. The AL Al Bayt Foundation said the meetings are to be ; held at the King Abdullah ic

Mosque in Amman. Taking part in the dialogue are scholars from Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia, Tur-key, Senegal, Sudan, Morocco. Syria, Lebanon, the United 'T Kingdom, the U.S.; Malaysia ii Spain, Nigeria and France. A total of 65 scholars will be

participating in the discussions. "

U.S. commerce chief visits firm aided by USAID financing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As a reaffirmation of one of the key themes of his visit to the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown Monday took time out from official talks to visit a private sector company which has benefitted the U.S. government

financing programmes.

During his 45-hilmate visit '12 to Al Hikma Pharmaceuricals' in the industrial zone near Wadi Seer in the western" outskirts of Amman, Mr. Brown underlined the importance that Washington the private sector in regional economic development as part of the Arab-Israeli peace

process. "Governments can only be vehicles" for economic interaction and the private sectors have to take the lead in identifying areas of cooperation in trade as well as industrial ventures, Mr. Brown said in brief remarks during a meeting with executives of the privately-owned com-

He praised Al Hikma's initiatives to open new markets and develop itself into a major contributor to Jordan's

Sales to 20 countries in the Middle East, Africa and Europe accounted for 86 per cent of the company's \$36 million turnover in 1992.

Underlining the company's achievements, Mr. Brown said he appreciated those "who are competing and winning" through innovative

The company, established in 1978, has benefitted from a commodity import programme (financing), management and technical training and technical assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the last two

"The U.S. aid assistance provided to Al Hikma is an excellent example of how



Monday receives U.S. Secretary of Commerce

USAID's import financing enabled a growing Jordanian company to purchase highquality U.S. goods," said a press release by the United States Information Service. "This financing combined with USAID's training and technical assistance programme has allowed Jordanian firms to produce internationally acceptable products at competitive prices which (have) significantly increased the private sector's overall

economic growth. Samir Darwazeh, general director of the company, said that Al Hikma had \$50 million turnover in 1993 and that it had acquired a whollyowned subsidiary in New Jersey in addition to launching ventures in Portugal.

Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. Officials accompanying Mr. Brown explained to the company officials other avenues of short-term financing arrangements available through U.S. government agencies and promised to follow up closely on the company's requirements, estimated at more than \$8 million in imports from the U.S.

by the year 1995. The imports will also include equipment for the company's projects in Portugal and new ventures in Tunisia, Al Hikma officials said.

Al Hikma employs about 500 people. About 25 per cent of its products are manufactured under licence from international firms such as Eli Lilly, S.K.&F, and Klinge. The company also cooperates with three major Japanese pharmaceutical firms, which have granted it licences.

Mr. Darwazeh told Mr. Brown that U.S. firms were traditionally reluctant to grant licences.

"We have been trying to get licences ever since we graduated from U.S. universities, he said, underlining the problems encountered in this context.

Heard during a briefing offered to Mr. Brown by the company officials were observations of hurdles that impede closer cooperation between Jordanian-American businesses.

These included repeated requests for renewals of letters of credit because of shortcomings in documentation, lack of flexibility, strict terms of payment and a missing sense of urgency on delivery schedules on the part of U.S. companies.

Furthermore, many U.S. firms are also unaware of government-supported financing arrangements for imports/exports. A general complaint was

also that of a lack of interest by U.S. firms in dealing with Jordanian companies since the volume of business involved is relatively low compared to the overall turnover of international giants as well as insistence on going through subsidiaries instead of direct dealings.

Mr. Brown said he was not "offended" by the observations and conceded that some of the complaints that were raised were not limited to U.S. firms dealing with Jor-

He said the Department of Commerce was trying to address some of the shortcomings, but again, there is not much the government could do to address special reatures of functions of private companies.

In general terms, he said the department as committed to raising the awareness of business potential of Jordan among U.S. businessmen.

home news in brief

Ist political party is legalised

MMAN (Petra - The Ministry of Interior s approved the stablishment of the Pan-Arah tion Front Pity, making it Jordan's 21st salised politics party.

abour unons group meeting nds

MMAN (Petr) — Delegates of Federations Labour Unios in seven Arab states ended a o-day workship in Amman on workers rights issuing an oppeal to world organisations ncerned withabour conditions to exert presse on the Israii authorities in order to ensure spect for instructional conventions on the this of workes in the occupied Arab lands. ne delegates iso called on Arab governments attend to the vocational training of workers in bid to help em unemployment and develop isting legislation concerning workers rights id wages. Alended by delegates from Jordan. banon, Barain, Yemen, Tunisia, Palestine id Kuwait, the meeting reviewed several workg papers desing with legislation on workers this and listed to lectures by a representae of the Brusels-based International Confedttion of Fre Trade Unions.

HUDD head leaves for Washington meeting

under irrigation.

AMMAN (Petra) - Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Yousef Hiyasat Monday left Amman for Washington to participate in the meeting of the Higher Steering Committee of the Interna-tional Urban Development Programme due to open Tuesday.

Health ministry steps up food store inapections

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Monday said the ministry will intensify its inspection of food stores and will require their owners to keep food supplies refrigerated at appropriate temperatures. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Malhas said that because many diseases spread during the fasting month of Ramadan, which will start around Feb. 11, the ministry will step up these inspections. He said instructions were issued by the ministry to store owners which produce Qatayef (a sweet popular during Ramadan) to obtain special permits from the ministry. Stores violating the ministry's instructions will be closed and their owners will be referred to courts, the minister warned.

what's going on **EXHIBITIONS**

- ☆ Exhibition on the art of architecture at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Photo exhibition by artist Muwaffaq Al Sheikh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talisma" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- * Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre. ☆ Permanent exhibition of contemporary Arab artists and 'Chair" exhibition at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh.

DIALOGUE

☆ Dialogue with Egyptian actor Abdul Rahman Abu Zahra at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

☆ Poetry recital by poet Farid al Barghouthi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

☆ Lecture in Arabic on the current winter by Dr. Ali Abanda, secretary general of the Meteorological Department, at Arab Youth Forum (Wasii Al Tal Street) at 5:00 p.m.

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Ų.S. The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. state. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Ma Jordan Times advertising department. Syria

we The 'peace of the brave'

achiev willingness to reach a comprehensive and lasting peace in For the Middle East was expressed in clear forthright terms. Mr. AAfter five hours of talks with Mr. Clinton in Geneva, foe, stSyrian President Hafez Al Assad reiterated what the nationArab stauce has been since, and well before, the But Arab-Israeli peace process started in Madrid in 1991: been SIbe Arabs want the peace of the brave, a peace that can

ped sir What that means, in essence, is that the Arabs want a adverscomprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict on ser Athe basis of international legitimacy and the exchange of and siland for peace.

with I "I would hope that (Assad's statements) would pro-Palestivoke a positive response in Israel and that then the parties would get together and work these details out," Mr. Clinton told reporters after his meeting with Assad

But a positive response Assad's remarks did not SU provoke in Israel. Instead, Israeli officials downplayed the importance of the achievements of the Geneva By manuit, colouring their reaction to it with the insecurity, flawed interpretations and the negativity that render Israel lacking in the courage necessary for it to embark BEIRING the "peace of the braves."

dere I Israeli officials further said that Mr. Assad was not as Ministelear and unequivocal about Syria's perception of peace get this Israel had hoped he would be. But Mr. Assad can mined house say what Israel wants him to say Mer can say never say what Israel wants him to say. Nor can any Monother Arab leader. What Israel wants Arab leaders to say returns that they are committed to diplomatic relations, open ed by hurders, tourism and trade with it. What it did not want "Halbem to say is that in return, Israel has to faifill its can guitternational obligations and withdraw from the Arab Tands it occupies by force.

Finance By any serious standard, that amounts to surrender, mer fand that no Arab country is willing to do.

Hariri. Syria's stated position has been that it wants "full "Thereace for full withdrawal (from the Golan Heights and dere unther occupied Arab territories)."

sophist Such a position is vague only in the minds of Israeli the doleaders. Full peace means open borders and diplomatic But Frelation and tourism and trade. But it also means viable, withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and the Golan

The Heights and south Lebanon and the restoration of the ion. Wrights of the Palestinian people, including the right of target with the their horneland Beirut return to their homeland. Israel cannot have one without the other.

Nor can it expect the world to continue to fall for the corpor presents behind which it is hiding its fears from achieving Nearreal peace in the Middle East. The genuine peace from initiatives that the Arabs have made are too many, and Lebandoo clear, for Esrael to distort with its propaganda ing a apparatus or undermine with its false security concerns. capita

squeez Syria's statement of its willingness for peace were \$320 unequivocal, Israel's reaction to this statement was not

expatri ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Beirut

a ti r d

AL DUSTOUR daily commented on the outcome of the Syrian-American summit meeting and the results serve as a new test for the American administration which claims to be a full partner in the peace process. The results also serve as testing ground for the Israeli government which continues to brag about peace but has, to date, rejected to comply with its 10 requirements and the implementation of U.N. resolutions, said the daily. The Syrian president's statements about his country's readiness for peace reflects the stand of the whole Arab Nation provided Israel is willing to implement the U.N. PROGI resolutions, said the daily. The United States, which claims to 19:30 exercise its role and bring about the aspired peace, demanded 19:30 the paper. Washington must have a spired peace, demanded demands are similar to those of other Arab parties involved in the peace process and that these are all legitimate and aiming at establishing permanent peace and security in the region. added the daily. It said that the Arabs are now awaiting the Israeli response and the American action in light of the results of the Geneva summit and awaiting to see some progress in the

Middle East peace process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Monday tackled the lengthy speeches by Parliament members who, he said. discussed detailed issues pertaining to their respective districts during the debate on the 1994 fiscal budget. Ahmad Shaker said that among the media, Jordan Television was perhaps more successful than the press in selecting only what is useful and sums up the main points of each deputy and presented it to St. Mai the viewers. While admitting that the views of the deputies Tcl. 81 the board in the framework of democracy, one can only should be heard in the framework of democracy, one can only 632785. say that presentation of views ought to be better organised so St. Jose that they would not take four whole days and evenings, said Charch the writer. He suggested that the deputies of each district meet 637440. De la Sin advance of every Parliament session and unify their stand Terres and agree on a specified address to be delivered during the Church session. The writer said that the other alternative is for each deputy to summarise his speech on one or two pages rather than go into details which sometimes do not serve their purpose. The writer said that deputies affiliated to political parties could also present the views of their respective parties during the session through one speech which can summarise the party's demands.

The View from Fourth Circle

Geneva, Somalia and New Jersey with belly dancers

The fact that the Assad-Clinton summit in Geneva on Sunday coincided with the third anniversary of the outbreak of the 1991 Gulf war is more than merely an interesting coincidence. It is a substantive statement about the root causes of the violence and instability of the Middle East, and also about the most appropriate American policy for this region

The Geneva summit was an important meeting, but perhaps not for the reasons that we have been hearing from the Americans or reading in a global press whose priorities and news values are strongly influenced by American cultural and commercial impulses. The Americans have placed great emphasis on the importance of President Assad's statement about Syria's willingness to make peace and to have normal relations with Israel. This is no surprise. Washington and Damascus reports have anticipated this for weeks, and this is the main reason why President Clinton made the gesture of meeting President Assad in Geneva.

But the news of a major advance in the Syrian position is exaggerated. The Syrians have long stated, in their own language and manner, that they are prepared to make peace with Israel on the basis of implementing U.N. resolutions and of assuring equal rights to Israelis and Arabs.

There is not and has never been any doubt about Syria's willingness to sign a peace accord with Israel. The vagueness in the Syrian position. I believe, has been due to two reasons. one tactical, the other substantive.

The tactical reason is that Syria will not divulge its final negotiating position in advance — and it will certainly not do so in response to an American president who is trying at once to be an impartial peacemaker and a lobbyist for Israeli

The substantive reason for Syria's vagueness is that Israel has yet to make a clear statement about its intention or willingness to withdraw completely from all the territories occupied in 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights. Why should Syria state its willingness to have normal diplomatic relations with Israel if Israel in return does not state that it will evacuate the Syrian lands it occupies? The sty, old, oriental generals Rabin and Assad wink and nod at one another. vaguely hinting about full withdrawal and full peace, but never saying so explicitly, because in the orient to be explicit is to be weak and vulnerable.

The real importance of the summit is not what the Syriar president said, but what the American president did: Bill Clinton travelled halfway to the Middle East and met with President Assad in Geneva. The symbolism is powerful, but largely unspoken in a world where most commentators live in the shadow of the God of American money and power. President Assad is trying to show that Syria, unlike many other Arab states, cannot be taken for granted and cannot be

expected to make a series of endless concessions that respond to Israeli priorities, without getting anything in return.
By travelling to Geneva for this summit, President Clinton

sends the message that he recognises Syria's important role in the region and, perhaps more importantly, that he is willing to engage personally in some Mideast diplomacy. History is not clear about the value of American presidents getting directly and personally involved in Mideast diplomacy. It is probably a useful development if the president uses his office to promote mentation of international law and U.N. resolutions. It is a bad thing if the president is only a front man for Israeli demands, an advance man for pro-Israeli American politicians and an apologist for Zionist mythology.

We do not know where Bill Clinton stands on these issues because he has largely stayed away from Mideast politics. If he applies his sense of fairness, rationality and humanism that is so evident in domestic American issues to the Middle East, he wiff be a genuine statesman and peacemaker. If he succumbs to the thrills of marketplace politics and only panders to pro-Israel fears and votes, he will be remembered as just another journeyman in political expedience.

Other than some mostly ceremonial meetings in Washington, this was Bill Clinton's first substantive personal venture into the Middle East; from his public statements, he seems to have adopted a cautious and balanced tone in his approach to the complexities of our region. Clearly, though, the American messenger was more important than the message. The presence of the American president in Geneva was an important sign that Washington would make the effort to meet Syria halfway — geographically in the first instance, but perhaps politically in the final analysis.

This is a positive development that should be built upon to engage the Americans in Arab-Israeli peacemaking in a more even-handed manner. Whether the Syrian strategy of playing hard to get is the way to achieve this remains to be seen. Egypt. Jordan, the PLO and other Arab parties are trying different, usually more compliant and conciliatory, approaches that have yet to prove their full worth or their

The coincidence of the Geneva summit with the third miversary of the Gulf war is noteworthy because the current U.S.-Israeli-Syrian diplomatic dynamic is part and parcel of a larger struggle that will define the future of this region for decades to come. On one side are the forces that believe in the dominance, perhaps even the sanctity, of American-driven commercialism as the defining characteristic of the new global age. These people believe that our survival and happiness require that we submit totally to the dictates of American pop culture, the directives of American diplomacy and the directionlessness that derives from the United States' peculiar attichment to an ahistorical sense of materialistic individu

On the other hand are the Arab-Islamic forces that he fearul of such an eventuality and that see our future as something more than New Jersey with belly dancers or Somilia with beach-side Burger Kings. These forces rect bittely to the continued denial of Arab national rights, misminagement of Arab national resources and denigration of Arab pational identity. Out of weakness, perhaps, one of he few whys they have to express themselves is through defiarte, especially defiance of the U.S. government, Israel and their adjunct and proxies in the Arab World.

This what Iraq did at such great cost in the 1990-1991 Gif crisis, aid this is what Syria is doing today. But Syria is mire subtle tlan Iraq. Its defiance is couched in the soothing languageof statecraft. Its little victories are calculated in symbolish of the geography of diplomacy, rather than he geograph of warfare. Bringing the American president to Geneva fol a meeting in which Syria was praised essentially or repeating is previous position is indeed a little victory— for just for Syria, but for everybody who seeks justice, peace and stability in the Middle East.

The hope is that this meeting heralds an American inclination be deal with Arabs and Israelis in a mire even-handed nanner. If so, we can be hopeful for the future, If not, the vicence of the Gulf war and the political tension of the last decale in this region will be seen in historical retrospect as rerely a warm-up session — a prelude to a mare sustained cyclepf anger and violence that remains inevitable if the underlying causes of Arabic-Islamic national distortion and disequilibrum are not dealt with quickly and fairly

It is not totaly clear exactly how Syria fits into the larger drive for Arab egnity and national rebirth. Its historical role is undeniable, wheher as a past centre of Arab civilisation a contemporary ellspring of Arab diplomatic bravado of a future pole of Arab renaissance and cultural-economic dynamism in a more denocratic and pluralistic context. It is trying to play a role somewhere between the sad dependence of Egypt, the limited influence of small states such as Jordan and

Lebanon, the aggessive defiance of Iraq and the quet diplomacy of the old producers.

Washington and rael recognise this historical Syrian role and are trying to core to terms with it, while Syria in turn is saying that such a process cannot perpetuate the American-Israeli arrogance thanas characterised the peace process to date. I believe that this the larger, unspoken meaning of the Geneva summit, whose implications will be felt far beyond the confines of the peace rocess.

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Israeli foreign policy — grasping new opportunities

By Jane Hunter

IS IT the old spirit of adventurism, the pariah scrabbling for niches in a wall of diplomatic rejection, that motivates Israel's current foreign policy? Or is Israel simply carrying its old baggage as it exploits the new opportunities opened by its peace agreement with the PLO and the end of the cold

Israel's diplomatic adventures last year included North Korea, Cuba, Libya and Iraq. More improbable partners are hard to imagine; all have been among Israel's noisiest detractors. In its dealings with the four, it followed its accustomed practice — laid bare in the Iran-Contra scandal - of coupling diplomacy with big money deals. Historically, Mossad, the intelligence agency, often handled both the diplomacy and business deals. The contacts all feature mur-

ky business deafs. Israel hus been marketing fraqi oil, according to Israeli and Egyptian reports. The Israeli re-ports note that Uri Lubrani, a former Mossad officer who coordinates Lebanon policy, has been put in charge of the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline, through which the oil is carried to the Mediterranean. North Korea was offered investment and foodstuffs. Rafi Eitan, the former Mossad officer who controlled the espionage activi-ties of Jonathan Jay Pollard in the U.S., is now coordinating extensive Israeli business deals with Cuba, according to the Israeli press. Israel's dealings with Libya, which made headlines last spring involved plans for large-scale joint investment in the Gaza Strip, reportedly to be organised by Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi and his Israeli Iran-Contra partner, Ya'acov Nimrodi.

Many regard these eclectic Israeli contacts as declarations of independence from U.S. dictates, a trend deemed likely to continue given that the Israeli-PLO negotiations were carried out without Washington's help. However, some reports say the U.S. approves of Israel's dealings with Iraq and initially assented to the contacts with North Korea, before ordering Israel to halt them several months ago.
The Clinton admin

vehemently opposed Israel's contacts with Libya because it correctly viewed them as undermining efforts to force Tripoli to surrender suspects in the Lockerbie case. But before Israel had the opportunity to defy U.S. orders to halt the contacts, the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO handshake drove Libya back to its usual rejectionism. The administration formally protested israel's deals with Cuba and quickly smashed an Israeli company's effort to establish a telephone link-up between Cubs and the U.S. via London. Washington's Cuba policy is dominated by a

banshee chorus only slightly



than faraci's own lobby. Israci has reportedly ignored the di-plomatic protest.

> "Many regard to of Independence from U.S. dictates, a trend decided likely to We given that the Israeli-PLO None were negotiations were carried out without Washington's help. However, some reports say the U.S. pproves of Israel's callege with Iraq and initially assembed to the comtacts with North Korea, before ordering brack to halt them several

Focus on fundamentalism

Only its involvement with Cuba falls outside the main strategic concern of Israel's foreign policy - a focus that can be summed up in two words: Iran and Islamic fundamentalism. Israel's evident

only vision that qualifies as a driving force behind current policy. Force and vision, however, do not automatically imply sincerity. Although much is made of Iran's large investment in tearming, and, perhaps, in developing nuclear weapons, Tehran is not the dire military threat to Israel that some have made it out to be. Israel's loudly proclaimed goal of stopping North Korea from selling fran medium-range missiles contraits markedly with its easy-going attitude to the sales of sophisticated weapons to Itan by China, a major Israeli atms cus-

The real threat is the challenge that Iran's ideology and militant Islamic political movements pose to western influence over the developing world, and to Israel as a perceived western outpost in the Middle East. It is a challenge that common sense dictates could best be met by diplomacy and a fairer global economic order. But moves in that direc-tion would not fulfill Israel's desire to reprise the strategic centrality it enjoyed in Washington's cold war policy. And even the prospect of Arab-Israeli peace may not have convinced Israel of the blessings of stability.

Prime Minister Rabin used his visits to China and Indonesia to convey an anti-frantan message. Kenya, the final stop on his tour, was quietly warned that Sudan was Iran's launching pad in Africa. The message was repeated during Tur-kish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin's visit to Israel in November, when the two nations agreed to share intelligence on Iran and to cooperate on projects in Central Asia. This collaboration was launched soon after the collapse of the USSR and was aimed, from the start, at blunting Iran's influence. But Turkey's failure to achieve the dominant position it had hoped to occupy in the region has led it to intensify its relations with Israel.

Beyond the focus on Iran. Israel's policy is a mix of practicality and emotion, Hard years of diplomacy in Asia are now paying off in business opportunities. The peace agreement put within Israel's reach the long-desired renegotiation of its trade pact with the European Union. Israeli business contacts in the Arab World are celebrated on a daily basis, with increasing openness. In economic terms, israel's trade with Europe and Asia are of much greater significance. But the focus on commercial — and diplomatic — contacts with Arab states reveals a deep need for acceptance by long-time adversaries. That motional content is undersoused by the shrill U.S. campaign for an immediate end to the arab boycott in advance of any Israeli demonstrations of good faith.

By contrast, Israel has been surfing without apparent objective on the wave of normality that has slowly beenbuilding since the end of the cold war and peaked in September. It is rushing to train diplomats to send to capitals where it was never allowed embassies. Cyprus and South Korea have appointed their first ambassadors to Tel

Aviv. The king of Spain has

visited. And Israel recently

passed a milestone when its

former justice ministry director. Mayer Gabay, was elected over the Hungarian and Guatemalan candidates -- to the U.N.'s administrative tri-

Opportunism

With all this going on, Israel appears to have less attention to give to Africa, until recently a major preoccupation. The Organisation of African Uni-ty's 1973 diplomatic embargo was a deep stab to Israeli national pride, and it spent years doggedly wooing back its African diplomatic partners. The end of the cold war brought many back into the fold. But the agreement with the PLO prompted two respected governments that had been firmly committed to the boycott to change their stance. Zimbabwe recognised Israel and Uganda said it would rees-tablish ties. But few noticed. Except for South African and anti-Sudan efforts in the Horn, Israel seems to agree with the leading industrial nations that sub-Saharan Africa, with its sinking economies, is irrelevant.

As investment returns to South Africa, Israel is working hard to overcome a special set of problems incurred from its long military collaboration with the old regime. Most of the military contracts are finished, say U.S. experts, but that is largely due to the white government's effort over the last few years to crack open Arab arms markets to find buyers for the products of the South African arms industry --which Israel played a major role in developing.

However, the arms deals and the resultant enmity of the African National Congress

(ANC) towards Israel - remained a major irritant in relations between blacks and Jews in the U.S. Fearful of losing the support of black congress men for Israel, U.S. Jewish organisations pressed Israel hard to mend its ties with the ANC. But even as the military link frayed, the ANC, which will likely head the next givernment, kept Israel at arms Vength, citing its support for Palestinian lands.

> 'In economic terms, Israel's rade with **Turope and Asia** re of much geater signifiance. But the ficus on commercial — and dolomatic contacts with Arb states reveas a deep need. for acceptance by long-time ad ersaries. Tha emotional contact is underscord by the shrill U.S. campaignfor an immediae end to the Apb boycott in advance of any kraeli demonstrations of good Aith."

Israel can till find a nicht for itself sellin weapons where western natios, especially the U.S., will n. Estonia, for example, has truck an arms deal with Israeat a time when the West is unvilling to anger Moscow by seing arms to the Baltic states. huge Israeli arms deal with Romanis appears to havenvolved funds which publishe statistics suggest that Buchrest does not

Last year Suatemala announced it we negotiating with Israel for yeapons and military trainers The Central American natio which long relied on Israel for weapons and advice during its slaughter of its indigenou population, has not overcomene stigma of human rights atroties. But, as arms producers ep up ther fight for a share of the dwind-ling world market few poten tial customers ill remain beyond the pale srael's only edge could be the putation it developed in the Ds and '80s' a willingness to gt down and dirty with the word of them—
Middle East Interational.

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Russia — a dangerous place to do business

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"One reason why the right-

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wing extremists are attractive

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element to go away," Mr.

dimir Zhirinovsky, who won a

seat in Russia's parliament last

month, told voters in an elec-

tion television appearance:

'We'll set up courts on the

Despite rising crime, Mr.

spot to shoot the leaders of

Grose, citing control risk

group's yearly security report,

believes Russia still offers a lot

to businesses and that the

situation will eventually im-

tice, I think it will happen."

But, he said, it is not going to

careful steps. They have to

make sure what they are facing

building security funds. Risks can be managed," he said. He

also warned against doing busi-

ness with bogus Russian part-

ners, who are sometimes a

Russian crime is not an in-

ternal matter. It is estimated

that more than 150 of these

gangs operate internationally,

with some forging links with

In August, a gang planning

to demand a 10 million ransom

tried to kidnap Swedish indus-

trialist Peter Wallenberg from

Last month, four gunmen,

also seeking 10 million, kid-

napped school students and

then fled in a stolen army

helicopter. The bizarre four-

day journey ended with the arrest of the gang in southern

Many gangs have spread

their tentacles to the Brighton

Beach area of Brooklyn, an

area of New York heavily

rants. Using Mafia-style tac-

tics, they often demand protec-

tion money from shopkeepers

Special Issue No. 1/1994

his home near Stockholm.

the infamous Italian Mafia.

for criminal organisa-

"Companies must start

"In terms of business prac-

"Businesses have got to take

criminal bands.'

be easy.

out there.

front

Russia.

Ultra-nationalist leader Vla-

he said.

By Jayson Carcione Reuter

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LONDON - It could be gangland Chicago or New York during the 1920s and 1930s, when mobsters, thugs and hoods controlled a vast criminal empire linked to protection rackets, gambling, prostitution and extortion

But a new survey says this is Russia today. Since the fall of communism,

organised crime in Russia has grown at an alarming rate. A report published by an international security firm. Control Risks Group, revealed that about 3,000 organised

crime groups engaged in rack-

eteering, extortion and kidnap-

ping have surfaced in the former Soviet Union. "The crime situation has deteriorated in the past two years. Unfortunately foreigners, including businesses, are targets of crime," said a

"It is not absolutely safe totravel to Moscow and St. Petersburg," he added.

Russian embassy spokesman in

The control risks report also illustrated the fears of British business in Russia, which believes it to be the most dangerous place in the world to oper-

Of 100 top British executives polled, more than half saw Russia "as a difficult country to set up and run a business

The survey said: "Political uncertainty will continue in Russia throughout 1994, but escalating crime is the most pressing security problem for

foreign business. In the first six months of 1993 there were 7,000 reported crimes against foreigners, most of which were extortion demands. Perhaps not a high figure in some western cities, but in a country where communist law and order suppressed most criminal activity, it is.

The real figures are likely, to be much higher, though it is not clear how many of these extortions involved foreign

business," said the report. It added that serious crimes against foreigners are still rare in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but warned that foreign business "faces an increasing risk of extortion demands" in those.

former Soviet republics. The British Foreign Office shares the concerns of overseas business in Russia. Its travel section has cautioned Britons to be on guard against crime and keep all expensive items out of sight.

"Legitimate business is being scared by the gangster-style of trading in Russia," said Christopher Grose, director of Control Risks Information Services, after the report was pub-

"The lack of normal business practice is encouraging

Majali

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Majali urged Arab states to join Western creditors in rescheduling its debts to revive the economy, rocked by foreign debt and a sharp decline in

Dr. Majali said the domestic economy had started to improve since Jordan launched

"We have overcome the most difficult stages and Jordan hopes sisterly countries (Arabs) will show understanding as was done by friendly. countries, which have rescheduled our debts," he said.

Dr. Majali did not name the Arab creditors nor give fi-

According to official Arab figures. Jordan received around \$2.1 billion of \$19.5 billion extended by Gulf states in loans and grants in the five years before the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

It has also received more than 10 per cent of the total. Arab aid of nearly \$100 billion provided between 1970 and 1992.

PLO

(Continued from page 1) states and Egypt in a declaration which described the Israeli-PLO accord as a first

step on the path of peace. There had been no consultations between the PLO and Damascus before the Geneva summit, and so far, no briefing has been planned after it PLO officials said.

Political activists see democratic process reversing

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Political activists charge that there is regress in democracy in Jordan for which the government is not the only party to blame.

"Democracy and (people's) rights are not going to be granted (to the people) by the regime, they should be taken (by force)," said Riad Nawayseh, a former deputy, at a roundtable entitled "The Future of Democracy in Jordan," held at the Professional Un-

"The 1952 constitution is better (than the present one) ... everything in the past was better," said Leith Shbeilat, also a former deputy.

ion's Complex Sunday.

To Salim Zou'bi, who unlike his colleagues ran for reelection but lost, the trend (going back on the path of democracy) is because the "enemies of democracy and the leaders of the martial law era are still in power and are scheming against democracy." According to Mr. Zou'bi, a

prominent lawyer who served in the 11th Parliament Judicial Committee the "signs" of -re-

gress and reversal of democra-Shbeilat, another speaker at cy are manifested in the procedures that started with the dissolution of Parliament, in August last year, and were followed by the introduction of the one-person, one-vote Election Law.

"This wierd and odd law...I

don't think that there were dire necessities to change the law in this manner without resorting to the legislative authority," Mr. Zou'bi said. "And besides, article 94 of the constitution before it was amended in 1958, stipulated that the Cabinet, with the approval of the King, can introduce temporary laws only in case of emergency. The emergency cases were confined to: natural catastrophies, war and the

According to the former deputy, the other signs of this reversal are reflected in what he described as government interference in the recent elections and the bias of the local media in favour of the government against the opposition.

Adding to the list of "rever-

sal phenomenon." Mr.

need to dispense emergency

punishment issued by the state Security Court on Monday against three persons charged with an assassination attempt on His Majesty King Hussein's life as "inhumane" Referring to policies and practices of the ministries of finance, defence, and the interior, Mr. Shbeilat contended that "civil society institutions

the three-hour roundtable

which was organised by the

Freedoms Committee at the

Professional Unions Complex.

who last year said he quit

politics, described the capital

'Democracy has tightened the fetters on the ideological. political and social freedoms,"

are still incapable of doing

anything to (stay) the con-

tinuous violations of human

Mr. Shbeilat criticised what he saw as undemocratic approaches, refuting the "socalled democratic experi-

"Calling it an experiment is a denial of the Constitution," he said.

To Ata Abu Rishteh, another speaker at Sunday's roundtable, and spokesperson for the Hizb Al Tahrir party,. the idea of democracy is altogether in consistent with the Islamic Sharia. Based on the principle that "sovereignty is the right of the people." democracy is in contradiction with Islam which stipulates that sovereignty is for God solely; that is, laws and legislations should be extracted from the Koran and the Prophet's tradition and not "from the people themselves," Mr. Abu Rishteh said.

Pointing to differences that exist between Islam's Majlis Al Shura (Shura council) and Parliament, Mr. Abu Rishteh said that the Shura Council's main task is confined to projecting its members' views about particular matters and does not have the same authorities that Parliament, in the democratic system, has. The Parliament's power to legislate and introduce amendments is in contradiction with Islam where laws are mainly derived from Sharia and disputable issues are generally referred to specialists in the subjects under discus-

Mr. Abu Rishteh argued that democracy is on its way of "dying out," and the people who were "once fascinated when democratic publicity was marketed... have now found out that they can only express thoughts that go hand in hand with the government's policies... and that the political parties law is not only in contradiction with the Islamic Sharia but also is restricted by the Jordanian Constitution and

"I don't think that if Hizb Al Tahrir submitted an application form for legalisation it would be accepted," he added in answer to an objection forwarded by one of the participants who said that the Politicl Parties Law, enacted in 1992, is progressive.

not by God's will."

Discrimination among peo-, ple, arbitrary dismissals of employees for political affiliations and interference in labour unions were listed by Azmi Khawajah, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, as other phenomena of reversal of democracy in the country. He charged that these practices have nersisted even after the

introduction of democracy in ... 1989 and in some cases are. becoming more severe as in the . case of labour unions "which -. were more active in the pre- .. democracy era."

Senator Laila Sharaf, a for . . mer minister of information, ... supported Mr. Khawajah's argument but attributed this regression to the people's lack of enthusiasm and interest in -. enhancing the democratic process in the country.

"In the pre-democracy era, unions and organisations were more active and registered remarkable achievements," M.s. Sharaf said. "Before, hundreds would attend any meeting that the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in Jordan called for... at present, quorum can be hardly achieved."

Ms. Sharaf, together with Mr. Zou'bi, put the blame partly on the Parliament itself, for lack of coordination and direct contact with the peoples' main concerns and partly on the people themselves, who, unaccustomed to democratic -practices, seem incapable of living up to democratic princi-

Brown optimistic over economic ties

(Continued from page 1)

Crown Prince Hassan told Jordan Television after his talks with Mr. Brown that "clearly this is an issue that has to be raised in the context of peacemaking" and noted that the idea of free trade in the Middle East was reviewed at

(Continued from page 1)

based on U.N. resolutions and

the principle of a land-for-

peace deal as specified at the

start of Arab-Israeli peace

given a new impetus and in-

jected a new spirit, into the

stalled peace talks on the basis

of the Madrid equation," the

- Al Thawra noted that the

summit proved 'that Syria is

viewed by Washington as a key

and decisive player in achiev-

Amr Musa, speaking from Geneva, said: "This summit

will revive the peace process

on the Syrian and Lebanese

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Winning Tickets

ing peace in the region.

trewspaper said.

"The historic summit has

talks in Madrid in 1991.

The U.S. secretary of commerce said he "indicated strongly and unequivocally that (Washington) will be very supportive of Jordan" in the Kingdom's bid to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Asked whether there was

length at a meeting in London any move to make capital U.S. expects Israel-Syria move

tracks, it will yield a compre-

hensive settlement based on

land in return for peace and

will lead to the formation of a

Syrian-American · mechanism

to tackle all the issues between

Some Arab diplomats also

said that while peace between

Syria and Israel might lead to

both countries' troops leaving

Lebanon, that country would

grobably remain under

Damascus' political tutelage.

ing the summit came from pro-

Syrian Lebanese officials,

"saluted" Mr. Assad for dis-

cussing with Mr. Clinton an

Israeli troop withdrawal from

Drawing of January 17, 1994

Lebanon.

A flurry of statements prais-

the two parties.'

available for possible Jordanian-American joint ventures, he said: "We're trying to put together American businessmen and women who are interested in joint venture opportunities, not only here in Jordan but also in the West Bank and Gaza and other parts of this region of the world." Mr. Brown described anxie-

ty to protect intellectual property rights — computer software, music and films &c. against unauthorised commercialisation as a major concern of the U.S. and such practices were an impediment to closer commercial cooperation.

However, he said that during his talks in Saudi Arabia, where he began his Middle East visit Saturday, and in Jordan he found "an increased sensitivity on that issue and the importance the U.S. attaches to that issue. The United States happens

to be a leader in technology, in telecommunications, in software, and, therefore, there are great concerns from the creative individuals not only in the United States, but also around the world. These people want to ensure that creative endeavours are protected."

In an arrival statement. Mr.Brown said that the Clinton administration believes that Jordan had "tremendous potential for growth and development," and that the U.S. was "absolutely committed to finding ways to help our private sector and the Jordanian private sector work closely together...

Following are excerpts from Mr. Brown's arrival com-

"Jordan's highly educated population, its strategic location, its progressive leadership all point to a nation poised for increased prosperity. When we add to this equation the possibility for lasting peace-which Jordan has helped to bring

about - and the potential for economic development and growth becomes almost unlimited.' The climate of rising ex-

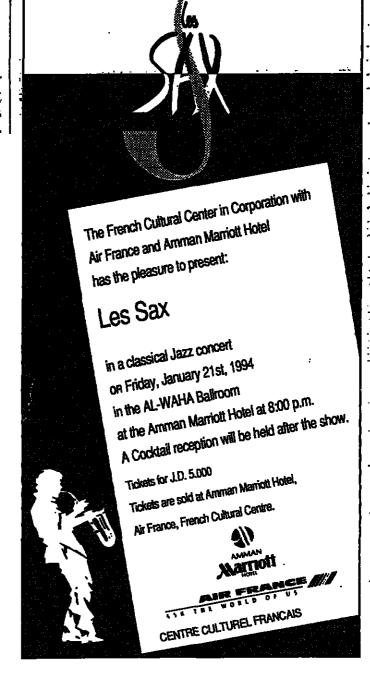
pectations spawned by the potential for peace demands that we act quickly and that we act effectively. The best hope for continued stability throughout this region is growing and widespread prosperity.

I believe Jordan can and will be an increasingly important commercial partner of the United States. I believe we can create a relationship that will generate jobs and prosperity in both of our nations. And I believe our work this week will bring peace and stability to a region too long torn by the tragedies of war and poverty."

Mr. Brown, a leading figure in the American civil rights movement and a close associate of the late Martin Luther King, addressed a gathering . organised by the World Affairs Council later Monday marking the birthday of Dr. King.

He also attended a meeting with businessmen organised by the Jordan Businessmen's Association before leaving for

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en consolation prizes totalling JD 6,000 each wins JD 680 Holder of ticket No. 60059 60050 60069 60159 61059 70059 60058 60049 60959 69059 50059 Wins JD 60,000 Holder of ticket No. 60059 A 60050 60069 60159 61059 70059 60058 60049 60959 69059 50059 Wins JD 25,000 wenty consolation prizes intaling TD 3.000 each was JD 158 Holder of ticket No. 72765 A B 72766 72775 72865 73765 02765 Wins JD 12,000 72764 72755 72665 71765 62765 wenly consolenon prizes (playing JD 2,460 each wins JD 126 19922 19931 19021 18921 29921 19920 19911 19821 10921 09921 Holder of ticket No. 19921 A B Wins JD 10,000 wenty consolation prizes totaling JD 2,800 each wins JD 100 Holder of ticket No. 74836 A B 74837 74846 74936 75836 04836 74835 74826 74736 73836 64836 Wins JD 7,000 wenty consolation prices lotaling JD 1,680 each wins JD 80 Holder of ticket No. 39329 A B 39320 39339 39429 30329 49329 Wins JD 5,000 39328 39319 39229 38329 29329 Holder of ticket No. 06952 A B renty consciation prizes totaling LD 1.486 each wire JD 76 06953 06962 06052 07952 16952 06951 06942 06852 05952 76952 Wins JD 4,000 venty consolation prizes totaling JD 1,200 each wins JD 60 Holder of ticket No. 20281 A B 20282 20291 20381 21281 30281 20280 20271 20181 29281 10281 Wins JD 2,500 wenty consolation puzes lotalling JD 600 each wins JD 36 Holder of ticket No. 20261 A B 20262 20271 20361 21261 30261 Wins JD 2,000 20260 20251 20161 29261 10261 68148 A B 66111 Ticket numbers Win JD 1,000 each 67841 A B Ticket numbers 34970 ... Win JD 500 each TICKETS ENDING WITH 8536 A B Win JD 250 each Win JD 100 each 8631 A B Win JD 50 each 027 A B 83 A B Win JD 15 each Win JD 5 each 1 One A B **COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS** 80 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 056 882 261 653 743 A B Win JD 26 Winners of the grand prizes in the special issue number 24 of January 2, 1994 Next Draw takes place on February 2, 1994 First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

Africans blaming West for rising prices

street salesman to the progovernment newspaper the mood in Ivory Coast at the weekend was one of growing resentment towards foreigners. They are being blamed for last week's devaluation of the CFA franc and subsequent price rises throughout the 14

dates where it is used. 'One European woman asking a roadside peddler why his goods had doubled in price received a belligerent answer. Because of devaluation. because of you." he snapped. The semi-official lyoir Soir dinly's weekend edition carried g savage caricature of a leering International Monetary Fund (IMF) official drowning a screaming head shaped as Afri-

Algeria wants

business links

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) -

Algeria has unveiled plans to

increase business links with

Benouari said after the pact to

set up the \$28 million refinery

project was inked here.
The refinery, a joint venture

between Malaysian company

Josovina SDN BHD and Alge-

rian firm Aromes d'Algerie Sarl, would lead to substitution

bi pulm oil on the Algerian

market for rape-seed oil pre-

sently purchased from Europe.

Afone Chairman Nacer Ziani

Palm oil, of which Miclaysia is

Hie world's largest producer.

presently holds only 10 per

bent of the 400.000-tonne

vegetable oil market in Alger-

to capture about 50 per cent of

the Algerian market within

row years." Josovina's Chairman

Victor Ngo said, adding

that the refinery venture was

teasible despite Algeria's pol:

Mr. Ali, a former Algerian

treasury minister, said Algeria

nianted to set up more business

wint ventures with Asians, as

ir had become too dependent

on Europe, which "controls

nearly two-thirds of our fore-

- "Algerians are beginning to

find out it is cheaper to trade

and invest with Asia." said Mr.

All, who is helping the govern-

m: T' liberalise Algeria's

tign...- controlled businesses. Mr. Ali said Asian investors

could set up industries in the

upcoming free trade area en-

compassing Algeria and four

other countries - Tunisia.

Libya, Morocco and Maurita-

mia - to tap markets in

Burope and the Middle East.

"We are targeting palm oil

in. Mr. Nacer said.

tical instability.

ign trade."

а

to broaden

with Asia

oil refinery.

good," was the caption.

Another cartoon in the same paper showed a cigar-smoking IMF executive preparing a giant syringe to inject a dose of devaluation into a battered and trembling Africa. The bitterness has several

Newspapers, analysts and several politicians in the region say France and the Washington-based IMF and World Bank forced devaluation upon the 13 Central and West African states and the Indian Ocean Comoros Islands which make up the CFA franc

The price-rises that immediately followed Wednesday's devaluation - 50 per cent in the mainland states and

"Be quiet it's for your own 33 per cent in the comoros -caused bitterness toward shopowners seen as profiting from wage-earners' pain.

> West Africa's commercial li'e is dominated by Lebanese and Indian businessmen and they are increasingly resented by Africans as unemployment rises and government austerity programmes bite.

> I shall be looking over my shoulder for a while. People tell me 'we know you've made money out of this but we'll see you suffer too'." a Lebanese businessman told Reuters.

lvory Coast's government closed branches of the foreignowned Prosumo supermarket chain Friday until further notice. State television said the stores were shut because of

Neighbouring Burkina Faso closed three businesses for the same reason, ordering them to keep paying wages while shut.

In Abidjan, several shops ceased trading voluntarily, preferring to wait until pricing policy and changes to tax and import regulations were clarified. "I have merchandise of all

sorts and of different origins and I can't tell which of them ! am allowed to mark up and which I must keep at the old price," one trader said.

"I prefer to close and wait until things become more clear," he added. The Ivory Coast government

itself added to confusion. On Wednesday it published a list of goods and services it said were subject to a three-month price freeze and two days later

"to develop and deepen re-

forms, with stronger social

orientation" took on a hollow

ring after Mr. Chernomyrdin

called for a slower approach.

could include higher subsidies,

increased government spend-

ing and new credit emissions

The three could drive infla-

tion up again and make a

mockery of the anti-inflation

policies successfully pursued in

the second half of last year.

Lloyd Bentsen castigated Mr.

Gerashchenko last week for his

go-slow approach to reform,

saying it failed to address the

"You have to move ahead with reforms," Mr. Bentsen told reporters. "There are dan-

The treasury secretary sharply criticised Mr. Gerash-

chenko's support for continued

credits to Russia's inefficent,

state-owned enterprises,

aying such a policy fuelled

inflation and encouraged Rus-

sian investors to shift money

put-down line on Mr. Gerash-

chenko that he employed on

Dan Quayle in their 1988 elec-

tion campaign debate after the

former vice president com-

pared himself with the late

"I know Alan Greenspan,"

Mr. Bentsen said, referring to

the widely respected chairman

of the Federal Reserve, the

Michael Mitchell, general manager for rough diamond

sales with Australia's Argyle

Argyle, a joint venture be-

tween CRA Ltd and Ashton

Mining Ltd. of Australia is the

world's largest diamond pro-

ducer. It announced the forma-

diamond industry seen outpacing rivals

Mr. Bentsen used the same

out of the country.

John Kennedy.

Diamonds.

country's economic woes.

gers in going too slowly."

U.S. Treasury Secretary

from the central bank.

Economists said new policies

raised the price of two of the items on the list, fuel and rice. An official of ELF Cote d'I-

voire, a subsidiary of France's ELF-Aquitaine, said the com-pany would implement the 15 per cent increase in petrol prices and 10 per cent rise in diesel from midnight Sunday.

France ruled most of the CFA zone states before independence and had supported the CFA franc at a parity of 50 to one French franc since 1948.

Its decision last year to back devaluation left the zone with little choice if it wanted continued French financial back-

"Without doubt, we French are not well-loved in this part of the world right now." expatriate engineer said.

Rouble hits new low on fears economic reforms have stalled

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble fell victim to Russia's deepening political crisis Monday, tumbling 3.5 per cent to a record low of 1.402 to the dollar on fears that economic

Asia after signing an agreereforms would grind to a halt. ment with Malaysia to nouse Dealers said the currency, the African country's first palm which has already fallen 12 per cent this year, would continue This agreement with its steep decline. Banks were Malaysia is the first venture alarmed by the weekend dewith Asian countries as part of parture of resorm chief Yegor efforts to end European dominance of our economy." Algerian government consultant Ali

"We have witnessed the collapse of the Russian economy," said Alexander Besperstov, trader at Kubanbank.

Vitaly Shmelyov, vicepresident of Chasprombank, said the rouble was likely to fall to 1,500 to the dollar this "The fall is due to Gaidar's

departure. If Gaidar leaves the central bank will have more freedom in its actions and that's why banks are worried Other dealers said the cur-

rency could fall even further than that. Some did not rule out a rate of 2,000 roubles per dollar if the economy descends into turmoil.

Mr. Gaidar, the main architect of Russia's economic reforms, said he would not accept an invitation to serve as first deputy prime minister in the new government of President Boris Yeltsin. He complained that decisions were

being taken behind his back. And dealers said they expected Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov to follow Mr. Gaidar into opposition.

"Gaidar is a decent man, he cannot work in a government which squanders money stupidly. I do not think Yeltsin

BOMBAY (R) - India's ex-

ports of gems and jewellery are

forecast to surge by 29 per cent in the current financial year to

\$3.9 billion, with the country

set to become a major supplier

to the U.S., industry sources

India has already become

Indian

have said.

will persuade him to stay," said Alexander Chernykh, dealer with Kredit Moskva. "I reckon

Fyodorov will leave as well." Mr. Gaidar and Mr. Fyodorov have clashed on many occasions with more conservative Russian officials, including central bank head Viktor Gerashchenko, an advocate of centralised credits and support for industry, and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Chernomyrdin has said clearly that shock therapy is over, which means the end of tough monetary policy," Mr. Chernykh added. "The government has no other concept and in three months the state will go bankrupt. The only protection is converting assets nto dollars.

The rouble's fall - the currency tumbled to 1,425 to the dollar on the smaller St. Petersburg Exchange - and Mr. Gaidar's departure came as economic reforms were showing early signs of bearing fruit.

The rouble had moved only slowly against the dollar in the second half of last year and monthly inflation fell to a 1993 iow of 12 per cent in Decem-

Dealers said the lower inflation rate was due to tighter monetary policy and strict spending controls.

But the course of economic policy was thrown into doubt when voters delivered a stinging rebuff to Mr. Gaidar's reformist Russia's Choice in parliamentary polls on Dec. 12.

In a surprise result, weary voters elected a parliament where feuding reformers are outnumbered by communists, conservative agrarians and ex-

the world's largest cutter of

rough diamonds and is now

focusing on the manufacture of

"India has the potential to supplant both Thailand and

Hong Kong as the major sup-

plier of diamond jewellery into the United States," said

U.S. central vank. "Alan Mr. Yeltsin promised to Greenspan is a friend of mine. keep reforms on track, but his Viktor Gerashchenko is no promises, including one to visiting President Bill Clinton Alan Greenspan."

Russian reformers have made no secret of their desire to oust Mr. Gerashchenko from his post as central bank chief. Mr. Fyodorov has publicly said he would like the job. Á senior U.S. Treasury De-

unlikely, however, that Mr. Fyodorov would get the post. While it was possible that Mr. Gerashchenko might be forced out in a cabinet reshuffie expected this week, the

partment official said it was

official called the central bank governor a "survivor," Mr. Gerashchenko, who has been called the world's worst central banker by Harvard University professor and Yeltsin adviser Jeffrey Sachs, freely admits his aversion to orthodox macro-and microeconomics and even jekes ab-

"I don't understand all this stuff about micros and macros," he quipped at the opening of the Moscow banking office of U.S.-headquartered

Russia's struggling industries proleum Exporting Countries. and bringing about a recovery in output than meeting rigor-

ous monetary targets. While Mr. Gerashchenko's position as central bank chief is important for the future pace of Russia's reforms, its significance has diminished formewhat recently following the formation last year of a joint committee between the bank and the finance ministry '3 control the flow of credit.

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tre," said Andrew Wagstaff,

Argyle believes that the In-

lery in the United States.

Oil prices limit Iran's capacity expansion plans

MANAMA (R) - Iran plans eventually to expand its oil production capacity significantly with foreign help but said Monday that weak prices did not justify capacity expansions at the moment.

"The outlook for crude oil prices and demand in the future do not justify further expansions for us right now." Mustapha Khoee, representing Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Agazadeh, told a Middle East oil and gas conference. He confirmed later that he

was referring to a reluctance for now to expand beyond current rather than targetted capacity.

But he said the government's National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC), of which he is director for offshore production, was proposing that nearly \$30 billion be invested in the oil and gas sector in the second five-year plan beginning on March 26.

"The objective is reaching a crude oil production capacity of five million barrels per day (b/d) or 4.5 million b/d on a sustainable basis and preserving that level in the next five years," he said.

The proposals are subject to parliamentary approval. Mr. Khoee, who is also man-

aging director of NIOC's Iranian Offshore Oil Co., said Iran now had capacity of 4.2 million b/d - 3.8 million onshore and 400,000 offshore.

He did not specify whether this was sustainable or only a level that could be attained for short periods. Most analysts doubt that Iran has sustainable capacity

much over 3.8 million and say the shortage of foreign exchange, exacerbated by weak prices, is squeezing oil sector iticorp.

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The NIOC proposal is to invest \$16.6 billion of government funds on oil and a further \$9 billion in the oil sector from foreign resources, in the form of foreign credit. A further \$3.8 billion of government funds would be spent on the gas sector.

Mr. Khoee said the Iranian constitution barred NIOC from granting production sharing on equity agreements.

Argyle's manager for customer

The U.S. jewellery market was worth \$36.5 billion in

1993, of which 45 per cent

comprises diamond jewellery,

according to experts at a semi-

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industry in the U.S. market.

services

China, U.S. reach textile agreement

BEIJING (R) — China and the United States pulled back from the brink of a punishing trade war Monday, agreeing to a new textile pact that will crack down on illegal quotabusting by Chinese firms, officials said.

Wu Yi, head of China's ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation (MOF-TEC), hailed the agreement as a breakthrough after months of fruitless talks that culminated this month with a U.S. threat to slash Chinese textile quotas by up to 35 per cent.

"The strengthening of our cooperation will not only help to strengthen our bilateral economic and trade relations but also promote peace and world development." Mr. Wu told chief U.S. negotiator Jennifer Hillman before the pact was signed.

"We should join hands on cracking down on middlemen and hope for close cooperation to implement the agreement. Mr. Wu said.

Ms. Hillman said she was also pleased to announce the agreement, which she called "fair and equitable for both sides.

The pact, covering billions of dollars in Chinese exports. came at a key moment in Sino-U.S. relations as Washington gears up for its annual review of China's most favoured nation (MFN) preferential trade status in June.

The memorandum of understanding, signed by Ms. Hill-man and MOFTEC Vice Minister Shi Guangsheng, extends a bilateral textile trade regime for a further three years. The existing pact expired on Dec. 31. The row revolved around

U.S. accusations that Beijing allowed some \$2 billion worth

of Chinese textiles to slip into the United States bearing false third-country labels, thus evad-

ing quotas.
Washington, which says China sold some \$7.2 billion in textiles to the United States last year, demanded Beijing take stronger action to stop the transhipments or risk losing a major chunk of its biggest overseas textile market.

The pact was agreed only after a hair-raising final day of negotiation that saw both sides repeatedly postpone hopes for a quick compromise. The U.S. quota cuts were due to come into effect Monday.

China, which had vowed to retaliate for any unilateral U.S. action, said the threatened cuts would have cost its textile industry some \$1.2 billion and thrown 300,000 Chinese out of work.

Vice Minister Shi, speaking to Chinese reporters after the agreement was announced, said the sides agreed to compromise while working together to police tranship

China's main gesture was to agree that if a Chinese firm is proven to be evading quotas by using illegal transhipments. Beijing may agree on a caseby-case basis to accept a tit-fortat quota cut.

"China has agreed to accept a quota reduction of no more than three times the amount of textiles conclusively proven to have been illegally transhipped." the official news agency Kinhua said.

The United States, for its part, agreed not to demand the right to make unilateral inspections of Chinese firms but to do so only as part of Chinese investigations into quotabusting. Mr. Shi said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 18, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

Think more in terms of sticking with long-term arrangements with friends and relatives and less about temporary matters as we experience the triple Moon square to Neptune, Uranus and Mars.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are highly inspired now how to attain your greatest aspira-tions with relative ease. Follow through and you will have success and happiness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Talk over with kin how to have greater security, happiness. Help them to help themselves. Be more progressive, get rid of whatever is old-fashioned. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Get in touch with associates in every sphere of your existence and talk over ideas and plans for the future. Be more successful. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Much can be accom-plished now, so be sure to work diligently and also in full cooperation with co-workers. Exchange good ideas.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This can be a wenderfully happy day for you. Commercialise on special talents, see the right people that can help you towards your suc-VIRGO: (August 22 to Septem-

her 22) Be most devoted and loyal to close ties now and do what they desire of you, so that

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GENERAL TENDENCIES: you impress upon them that they

come first with you, LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your finest benefits come from progressive" and dynamic friends today, so be sure to approach them for ideas and cooperation you need.

SCORPIO: (October . 23. to November 21) Tend strictly to money-making projects today and be particularly cooperative with associates who are practical. Also, impress higher-ups with your fine business acumen.

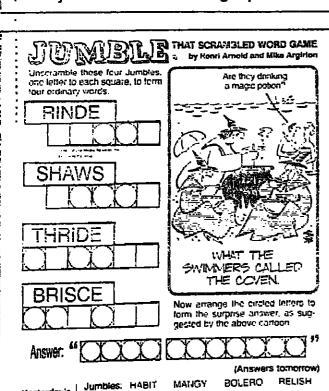
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An ideal day to look into new systems and outlets, make fine contacts that will mean greater prosperity for you in the early future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A particularly fine day for investigations that will give you the date you need at this time, but be secretive, think big. Get out to cultural pursuits in the

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into friendly circles and those who are truly loyal now so that you get good advice and ideas how to get along better with partners, be more successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you get business affairs in order and get credit rating higher, a big-wig will then give you the backing you need at this

the deter malf By Glasbergen GUSSERSEN "My diet worked! I lost eight pounds!"



Yesterday's

What they called the horses with adjoining stalls — INFIGHT-BORS

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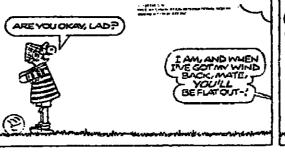
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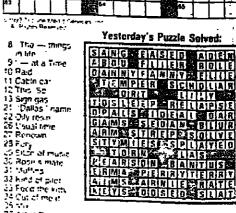


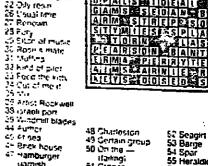


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THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Barbrich 1 Ferriv of TV 5 Kndn 9 Frequently 14 River to the Gaspian 15 Spare iā Scandinavar 17 Munical Bartch 13 Matures 19 Whittier a Musi 20 Zsa Zsa gwb pari gng 23 Cap 24 Wash or nurse Start — of the land 25 — of the land 26 Secreted 27 Jane or Zane 29 Sare 32 Claw 35 Ha bard 35 Hainard 36 Honohu port 37 Culp part lare 40 Move strongly 41 English ment 42 Frank and Bancrett. Yestorday's Puzzie Solved: in life 9 — at a Time 10 Paid (0975 45 April 5 Adgm 46 Sandy s bank 47 Dogm 43 John — Passoo





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Syria plans \$1.3b plants to end power shortage

approved construction of electricity plants costing \$1.3 billion to end rationing and meet increasing demands for power supplies, a senior official has

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Zaki Odieh, directorgeneral of Syria's Electricity Authority, told Reuters in an interview the plants would have the capacity to generate

2.828 megawatts. Much of Syria, except for big industrial zones, suffered electricity cuts for over six hours a.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

day but this has now been reduced to between two to three hours daily.

"Rationing will be (further) reduced gradually and will be removed by the end of the year," Mr. Odieh said.

President Hafez Al Assad last September ordered fast action to solve the electricity shortages.

Mr. Odieh said new industrial and agricultural projects, and increased household use of electricity, including more air

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Jordan Times

Cairo Amman Bank

AMF lends Yemen \$47m

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has loaned \$47 million to Yemen, one of the world's poorest states. Gulf news agen-

conditioning units, lay behind the power shortages.

at the Euphrates Dam, be-

cause of less water flowing in

the Euphrates River from Tur-

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cies reported. The loan will help finance a deficit in Yemen's balance of payments as part of a comprehensive programme for economic reforms in the impoverished Arab state.

The AMF, the Arab World's main financial arm, has extended Yemen a total of 17 loans worth \$75.4 million. The agencies said the deal represented 75 per cent of Sanaa's contribution to the AMF's capital.

key, and periodic overhauling of old electricity generation plants also played a role in reducing supplies.

Mr. Ödieh said Italy's Fiat would build three plants consisting of eight gas-fed turbines to generate 1,028 megawatts. These would cost a total \$326

The government of Kuwait and the Arab Fund for Arab Economic Development were helping to finance this, he said. Construction had already began and the first 128megawatt turbine would come on stream in August and the rest in 16 months.

Japan's Mitsubishi, which won a \$458 million contract, had already began work on a 600-megawatt combined-cycle plant. It was expected to complete the first gas-fed 200megawatt unit in November,

Mr. Odieh said. He said the whole project was due to be completed in mid-march next year and was partly financed by Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund which contributed \$423 million.

Tests of a 200-megawatt Russian-built plant near Damascus had already begun and the \$140 million project was expected to come on stream also in March.

The electricity chief said overhaul and maintainence of existing plants carried out recently had also contributed to lifting electricity production.

Mr. Odieh said his authority

has called tenders for building a 1,000-megawatt steam plant near the northern city of Aleppo. Saudi Arabia had pledged to contribute to financing the project and construction would

Syria had also reached an agreement with Lebanon this month for a 1,000-megawatt plant to be built in Lebanon which would feed both countries. He said committees were now discussing technical matters and construction would

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Omanis urged to brace for job natinalisation

MUSCAT (AFP) - Oman's ruler, in a face-to-face chat with his people, has urged them not to be lazy and prepare to take over jobs from foreigners as the Gulf state presses on with a nationalisation drive.

Sultan Qaboos Ibn Saeed said around 400,000 jobs taken up by Asians and other expatriates were awaiting Omanis and asked local religious and tribal leaders to encourage youngmen to engage in work. Sultan Qaboos said foreigners accounted for 26 per cent of the population and the government wanted to cut the

level to 10 per cent. "It is time for serious work. Let us work together to achieve that objective," he told Omanis in an outdoor

meeting. "I have information that the

that the youth are coming... there are at least 400,000 jobs occupied by expatriates and are awaiting the Omani

Sultan Qaboos, 48, rejected excuses by Omanis that they could not find jobs because they did not have academic qualifications. He said jobs in farming and other traditional sectors that were the main living source before oil was discovered did not require such qualifications.

Educational qualifications are not the ultimate goal. It is training and rehabilitation. There are certain types of work that do not need many qualifications. Farms and other facilities inherited from our ancestors are still there and testify for their capabilities,' he said. "Those who make

such excuses are lazy. Only lazy people make excuses. We all must not listen to these people; and we all must say to them

Sultan Qaboos said his government was chalking out an intensive training programme for Omanis so they will replace foreigners, who began to stream in when oil was disco-

vered around 10 years ago. Other oil-rich Gulf states depend heavily on foreign labour. given a large shortage in skilled native labour. But they have joined Oman in launching campaigns to lessen reliance on expatriates, which they believe have become a threat to their security and conservative tribal

Kuwait and the United Arab. Emirates (UAE) have the biggest percentage of foreigners. who have become a majority.

majority of Omanis are aged

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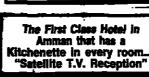


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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

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One sterling

One ounce of gold

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks **Dutch** guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns



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At least 2 killed as Zulus enforce strike call in S. Africa

Africa (AP) - Zulu supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) killed at least two people Monday and dragged township commuters from cars and taxis to enforce a strike call, police and witnesses said.

Unconfirmed reports said up to seven people died in beatings, shootings and stabbings in townships around Johannesburg as Zulus were called upon to skip work and greet their king in Pretoria.

About 15.000 Zulus, many dressed in tribal costumes and brandishing traditional weapons such as clubs and spears, gathered outside the government buildings in Pre-toria. Zulu King Goodwill Zwelethini and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi began talks in the afternoon with President F.W. De Klerk to discuss Zulu demands for sovereignty after April elec-

Inkatha spokeswoman Suzanne Vos denied allegations of intimidation, calling them part of a "vicious, anti-Inkatha campaign" waged by Nelson Mandela's rival African National Congress (ANC). But a Zulu who is an ANC supporter claimed he was forced to hide in a train toilet more than an hour to escape rampaging Inkatha supporters. "I realised I'm going to die."

David Sibeko said after leaving the train in Pretoria. Sibeko, 33, said he was travelling from Soweto, outside Johannesburg, to work in the city. But he said he staved on the train, cowering on the toilet floor, all the way to Pretoria 60 kilometres (40 miles) away to avoid being attacked.

They tried to push the (toilet) door. I put my back against the door, because l knew once I opened the door it was the end of my days," he

Despite being officially nonpartisan, King Zwelethini is a crucial figure in Inkatha's political fight against ANC domination of the Zulu homeland of Kwazulu. Inkatha is dominated by Zulus, and King Zwelethini frequently shares the podium with Mr. Buthelezi

Four hundred Zulus brandishing spears and axes marched in front of ANC headquarters in downtown Johannesburg, and small bands fanned out through the central



An unidentified man, stabbed in the face, flees into alleys in Alexander, a shanty town north of Johannesburg as Zulus clash with township residents trying to get to work (AFP photo)

business district, frightening away street vendors for the

În Pretoria, several proapartheid whites who oppose the ANC gathered to support the Zulus. Dennis Forbes, a member of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, said his party and Inkatha "are the only right guys, because they... just want their own countries. They don't want to share... with Mandela."

Police Lt. Deon Peens said two men were beaten to death in the townships of Actonville and Daveyton, east of Johannesburg, in a "campaign of intimidation" aimed at forcing Zulus to go to Pretoria.

The bodies of five people

with bullet wounds were found in Vosloorus, south of Johannesburg, and police were investigating whether the murders were related to the Zulu

Japan's

coalition

gets

Angola says 52 rebels killed in attacks

LUANDA (R) — Angolan government troops repulsed UNITA rebel attacks around the besieged northern city of Malange, killing more than 50 guerrillas, state radio said

The fighting took place as the two sides prepared to resume talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka on settling nearly two decades of civil war.

Mal. is one of several government-held cities in the interior under siege by Jonas State radio said 52 guerrillas

were killed in a series of clashes around the city. One guerrilla was captured and weapons, including 43 machineguns, were seized, it

The report could not be independently confirmed.

threatened to retaliate for what he said were fresh government attacks and hinted he might withdraw from the peace negotiations which began in

UNITA, which faces U.N. sanctions after being branded the aggressor in the war, Sunday said the government had just acquired \$160 million worth of weapons and military

It said this proved government insincerity towards the

The two sides reportedly reached a ceasefire agreement last month but it will not take effect until political issues, notably UNITA demands for a role in government, are sorted

The state newspaper Jornal De Angola said Monday the two negotiating teams in Lusa-

ka would continue discussing a proposed national police force. General principles of the force were resolved but they had reached an impasse on details, the newspaper said.

These include UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) demands for the dismantling of a government paramilitary police force

Civil war first broke out in Angola on independence from Portugal in 1975. A peace accord in 1991 briefly halted the conflict but fighting resumed after Savimbi lost elections in September 1992 and returned to the bush.

Tens of thousands people died as result of the war last year, many of them civilians who were killed by disease or

Outrage in Kiev over Russian

cratic Party (LDP) which has fought passage of the bill, spoke in favour of the bills but said there was room for "The bills should be passed

at the current session of parliament by any means." Komazawa University Professor Osamu Nishi told the hearing. "If they collapse, it will heighten public mistrust in politics. It is important to find comprom-

witnesses, including academics and local administrators, who spoke at the hearing while the seven-party coalition held a meeting on the vote, expected Wednesday in the upper

were few grounds for optim-

bills failed before the end of the parliament session on Jan.

which the coalition has 131

in July, was offering to discuss amendments to the hills, a move widely seen by the sevenparty coalition as a factic to delay debate on them.

Some legislators from the Social Democratic Party (SDP), a main player in the coalition, were also opposed to the bills which they argue will decimate the party in the next

The main bill is aimed at

According to coalition partners, it will eliminate excessive intra-mural rivalries and attempted vote buying. But

Another bill, designed to ban individual politicians from directly receiving corporate donations, is also said to have loopholes since it allows political parties and their fundraising organisations to accept

Mr. Rosokawa himself has been also embroilled in controversy over a 100 million yen (\$910.000) loan he received-

Fresh fighting reported in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) -Bosnia's warring factions accused each other of pressing ahead with fighting Monday. a day ahead of the latest peace talks in Geneva.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said Serb shelling of the central Bosnian town of Olovo continued overnight, while Bosnian government forces around the Serb-held town of Brcko in the north of the country also came under fire.

Bosnian Serb army sources said Muslim forces were to blame for the Brcko fighting. having launched attacks on Serb positions Monday morning, the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug reported.

Croatian Radio accused the Muslims of shelling the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf and said Muslim forces were regrouping in the area.

The Muslim-led Bosnian Army has enjoyed considerable military success against the Croats in central Bosnia in recent months, but there is evidence the Muslims are coming under increasing pressure from the Serbs in the region.

Muslim leaders were meeting Islamic foreign ministers in Geneva ahead of a resumption of peace talks between Bosnia's warring Serb. Muslim and Croat factions Tuesday. Bosnian Serb leader Rado-

van Karadzic has ordered his troops to stop attacking U.N. Protection Force and humanitarian organisations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serb news agency (SRNA) reported

The agency, citing an official communique issued by Mr.

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A

severe earthquake jolted

southern California early Mon-

day and was felt from San

Diego to Las Vegas, Nevada.

a.m. for about 30 seconds or

more, and several aftershocks

followed within minutes. Dis-

hes fell off shelves, some build-

ings were damaged and there

were widespread phone and

power outrages.
The National Earthquake

The quake was felt at 4:31

Severe quake hits southern

aftershocks.

Karadzic's office, said he has issued a "severe warning" forhidding any attacks by Serb troops on the Sarajevo Airport. on UNPROFOR troops. on the International Committee of the Red Cross and on any other humanitarian orga-

Mr. Karadzie also ordered Bosnian Serb military leaders to ensure "full protection and free access" to U.N. military observers and aid convoys carrying valid authorisation to travel through Serb-held terri-

The communique added Mr. Karadzic had issued the order to "prevent any unwanted incidents" with the international organisation.

Meanwhile in Geneva Monday, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali met with a delegation from the Organisation the Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the conflict in ex-Yugoslavia on the eve of a resumption on peace talks between the three warring par-

The eight OIC foreign ministers who met with Dr. Ghali are seeking a lifting of the U.N. arms embargo in Bosnia so that the mainly Muslim population there could better defend itself against the Serbs and Croats.

In recent Olovo fighting. Sasa Kralj, a photographer for the U.S. news agency Associated Press, was seriously in-jured by a mortar explosion. his agency reported Monday. Mr. Kralj. A Croatian

national, was injured Sunday in the spicen and ribs along with five other people who

leaving the region in their cars

as other stood outside their

homes apparently fearing

The valley, with about three

million residents, is about 50

miles (80 kms) east of down-

CNN talk show host Larry

King told his network by tele-

phone: "Here it goes again -

it's shaking even as I talk to

shook, the room shook," he

Barbara and Bakersfield to the

north and San Diego to the

south and as far as Las Vegas.

A reporter in Glendale, 10

miles (16 kms) north of Los

30 seconds and was strong

enough to send a television

slamming to the floor. Sirens

and alarms went off and phone

Seoul opposition to push for trip North

said after the aftershock.

"The telephone shook, bed

The quake was felt in Santa

town Los Angeles.

He was rushed to Tuzla. about 50 kilometres north of Olovo, where he underwent surgery and was to be transported to Split, in southern Croatia, Monday by the U.N. Protection Force Nordic Battalion based in Tuzla.

The leaders of Bosnia's warring factions have begun arriving in Geneva for the new round of peace talks but their uncompromising statements hold out little hope of a settle-

Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic called the negotiations a big lie Sunday, signalling that the map of a divided Boxma which will be on the table when talks begin Tuesday might as well be torn up now.

The latest Western-brokered proposal involves giving the Muslim-led Bosnian government a third of the country. But Bosnian leaders now say they will only sign for much

Muslims made up 43 per cent of Bosnia's population before the war. But after 21 months of fratricidal fighting sparked by secession from Yugoslavia, they now hold only 15 per cent.

Belgrade-hacked Serbs control 70 per cent of the republic while Bosnia's Croats, supported by Zagreb, have 15 per

The Muslims now say they want the Serbs to give back all the land which was settled by Muslims before the war. They have been boosted by victories against Croat forces and seem prepared to put up a tough fight at the negotiating table.

California

Near Hollywood, some

structural damage was visible in older buildings. But the full

extent of damage was uncer-

"It was a pretty good rocker here," said a Long Beach resi-dent 20 miles (32 kms) to the

I had some glass break, some things fall off shelves. It

rocked the water out of the

pool." said the resident. who

was cut off in phone troubles

The last big earthquake to

hit the area was on June 28, 1992. The landers quake mea-

sured 7.5 on the Richter Scale

and was followed a few hours

later by a magnitude 6.6 quake

The two quakes left one

person dead, injured more

than 400 and caused more than

\$92 million in damages.

service was disrupted.

tain before dawn.

after the quake.

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HO CHI MINH CITY. Vietnam (AFP) - "Everywhere you go, the kids wanna rock sang Canadian Bryan Adams to an audience of Vietnamese who endorsed the view wholeheartedly but were a bit unsure of how to respond to it. Adam's Sunday night show was the biggest concert in Vietnam since Bob Hope tried in vain to boost the morale of U.S. soldiers fighting a lost cause in the 1970s, the promoters said. But Adams himself chose a different frame of reference, saying he and his four piece band were the first to put on a live rock concert since James Brown bared his risque soul in Saigon. "I don't know why we are the first but it's very flattering. It's good huh?" he asked the audience after a few opening numbers. His wholesome, anthemic rock and his high-octane sentimental hallads - like the smash hit (Everything I Do) I do it for you — provided the perfect blend of good, clean fun and it was no accident that Adams, a champion of environmental causes, was allowed to play here. His group were on an Asian tour capitalising on the success of his latest album So Far So Good. He requested to play in Vietnam but first the government "screened my records, videos, press statements, everything I have done," he told reporters after the show. Adam's espousal of green issues seemed lost on the Ho Chi Minh crowds who have recently woken up from their Socialist hibernation and embraced capitalism with all the zeal of the born-again convert. "There's so few cars here, it's amazing. No cars that's great, that's fantastic," he told the audience who looked more embarassed than heartened at the news. Adams, who has a reputation for putting on powerful live shows, said he was a bit intimidated by being the first kid to rock again in Vietnam and so "held back" on stage, afraid that if he really let it rip, things might get out of hand. "I didn't want it to get too wild. I didn't know how the

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Jackson throws neverland doors open to children LOS OLIVOS, California

(AFP) — Embattled superstar Michael Jackson invited 100 inner-city children to his Neverland ranch in honour of Martin Luther King Day. Jackson, who has been accused of sexually molesting a 13-yearold boy, spent Saturday with the disadvantaged children. who were picked for their especially good school records. Saturday would have been King's 65th birthday. Jackson's ranch has a movie theatre, a zoo and an amusement park. Jackson was accused of sexual molestation by an unidentified child who is now 14. The civil suit is to go to trial on March 21. Jackson denies any misconduct and no criminal charges have been filed.

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's opposition leader said Monday party will be able to play a role tiations to resolve the North Korean nuclear impasse. in arranging a South-North meeting to help resolve nuclear He said Seoul should play a problems," Mr. Lee said. He leading role in trying to resolve was elected the DP leader at

still technically at war with the

South since the 1950s-53 Ke-

he will seek permission next month to visit North Korea to help resolve a bitter row over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear arms development program-

A spokesman for the male opposition Democratic Party (DP) quoted party leader Lee Ki-Tack as saying that shortly after a special parliamentary session expected next month he would apply for government

approval to visit Pyongyang. If I visit the North, I would urge President Kim Il-Sung to hold a summit (with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam) and a three-way meeting,

involving (South) Korea, the United States and North Korea," Mr. Lee was quoted as telling Cardinal Stephen Sou-Hwan Kim, South Korea's Roman Catholic leader, during a new year courtesy call. "I believe the opposition DP spokesman said.

Mr. Lee had said the govern-

rean conflict, during a news conference last week. North Korea Saturday welcomed Mr. Lee's offer to visit Pyongyang. The cardinal warned Mr. Lee that North Korea may try to make use of his trip for its own political propaganda, the

Under the nation's security law, Mr. Lee and other South Koreans must obtain government approval to visit the

ment of President Kim Young-Sam has been left in the background in international nego-

the nuclear dispute with the the party's convention last North, which insists direct talks between Pyongyang and Mr. Lee first disclosed his Washington is the only way to intention to visit the North,

settle the issue. North Korea has for months been the focus of international suspicion that it is attempting to build a nuclear bomb. It denies the charge.

Dialogue between the two Koreas to discuss an exchange of special envoys, which Seoul believes would help settle the nuclear impasse, has been stalled since last November because of a Northern demand for the cancellation of a joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise.

The North says the exercise. codenamed Team Spirit, is a tehearsal for invasion. Secul and Washington say it is purely

Mexican government pledges amnesty; rebel leader says fighting to continue SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS the misery of the 3.2 million, authorities. Hundreds of

CASAS, Mexico (AP) - Sol-diers hunted for guerrillas in the mountains of southern Mexico and, despite a promised amnesty by the govern-ment, a rebel leader vowed to keep up the fight for Indian

Eight suspected rebels were arrested Sunday, but there was no reaction Monday from guerrilla leaders to a plea by President Carlos Salinas De Gortari to lay down arms.

Ms. Salinas announced a general amnesty Sunday. saying it covered all "violent acts" committed by the rebels from Jan. 1, when the uprising started, through Sunday.

Hours before his announcement, rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army were quoted by the Mexican media as vowing they wouldn't lay down arms until their de-

One guerrilla leader, who identified himself only as Maj. Mario, said the rebels had numerous demands for ending bordering Guatemala. "We are not going to stop

the war until we have a satisfactory response," said the guerrilla, interviewed among kis heavily armed and masked fighters at a mountainous jung-

tantly for our poor people. We have suffered 500 years of exploitation by the national and international bourgeoisie," he told the Mexico City daily Reforma.

He said the guernillas, believed to number as many as 2,000, were abiding by the government's unilateral ceasefire, but would desend themselves if attacked by the 14,000 troops deployed in Chiapas.

In the pro-government viltage of Oxchuc, villagers said the eight arrested suspects.

while two single-engine prop-eller planes with rocket launchers and two helicopters flew overhead. Rebel activity had been reported the night before, but the army made no acrial attacks. In San Cristobal De Las

Casas, the government-appointed mediator, Manuel Chiapas conflict. Mr. Camacho also said he

had exchanged messages with the rebel Žapatista National Liberation Army.

tiations through messages being sent by both sides," Mr. Camacho said, declining to claborate.

Cristobal and several outlying towns in Chiapas on New Year's Day to highlight the plight of poor Mayan Indians.

nationalist success in Crimea stand for common sense in Crimea," Vladimir Kalich-- A Russian nationalist intent "These presidential elecon splitting the Crimean penintions are illegal because there is no post of Crimean president sula from Ukraine convincingnikov, one of Mr. Meshkov's ly won the first round of local in the Ukrainian constitution, top organisers, told journalists. presidential elections Monday Mykola Mykhalchenko said by Local reporters said the vote telephone.

but Kiev denounced the poll as Returns from all but two of 66 polling stations in Crimea gave Communist lawver Yuri

Meshkov 40 per cent of the vote, well ahead of his rivals but short of the 50 per cent needed to win outright. His closest rival, Nikolai Bagrov — the only one of the six candidates who wants

Crimea to remain in Ukraine — was way behind on 20 per cent. The two front-runners will contest a second round of voting in two weeks. Mr. Meshkov wants to return Crimea to Russian rule,

saying living conditions have plummeted since Ukraine gained independence in 1991. The shock outcome threatened the former Soviet republic's unity and could usher in significantly worse relations

Politicians in Ukraine were predictably outraged. A senior

with Russia.

political adviser to President Leonid Kravchuk denounced the poll and said Kiev would Khmer Rouge reject peace offer

bodia's Maoist Khmer Rouge has rejected the demobilisation of its guerrilla forces, branding a government peace offer as nothing more than a trap to destroy the organisation. The move opens the way for

PHNOM PENH (R) - Cam-

both sides to use the current dry season to settle their differences on the battlefield. In a statement dated Jan. 15 but released Monday, nominal chief Khieu Samphan formally rejected a key part of the peace

plan - the demobilisation of the Khmer Rouge military army.

machine and its eventual integration into the country's "Such activity cannot achieve real national reconciliation because it is not a real unification of national forces

but an attempt to catch and put the DK Party (Democratic Kampuchea or Khmer Rouge) in an iron cage which the 'yuon' Communists have arranged since its aggression in Cambodia. By doing this the DK Party will commit suicide." said Mr. Khieu Samparliamentary elections. "This autonomy and this

But Mykola Shurga, a Com-

choice, for the majority of people in Crimea voted this way. "I can't comment on this pessimistically." he said.

thy for its abusive tone towards

the government's main coali-

tion partner, the Cambodian

Peoples' Party, formerly the

Vietnamese-installed govern-

ment referred to by the Khmer

Rouge as "Yuon Commun-

"Yuon" is a pejorative term

The peace offer, originally

used by Cambodians to de-

conceived by Cambodian head

of state King Norodom Siha-

nouk, requires the Khmer

Rouge to accept a general

ceasefire, open up its zones of

control including Preah Vihear

Temple and gem-rich western

Pailin, and demobilise its

In return the government

would begin talks with the

Khmer Rouge and consider

Held responsible for the

deaths of one million Cambo-

dians during a region of terror

in the 70s, the Khmer Rouge

rejected participation in U.N.-

organised elections in May

offering it cabinet positions.

\$,000-strong insurgent force.

scribe Vietnamese.

Today we expect to adopt a strategic decision about Crimea," he said, but gave no further details.

Mr. Kravchuk could decide to impose direct presidential rule over the peninsula but this would undoubtedly inflame tensions with Russia, where ultra-nationalists made a strong showing in last month's

post are illegal and are aimed at dividing Ukraine. These results are proof of pro-Russian and pro-imperialist forces in Crimea. fumed leading opposition member Vyaches-Chornovil.

munist deputy who is also head of the Parliamentary Commission on State Sovereignty and Relations Between Nationalities, took a calmer line.

We have to respect this

reflected anger and despair at collapsing living standards.

They also said Mr. Bagrov, the Crimean parliament chairman who had carried Kiev's hopes in the poll, had run a badly-organised campaign. Mr. Meshkov has pledged to

stage a referendum on the status of Crimea on March 27, the day of Ukraine's elections. He also promised to establish Crimean citizenship, send a delegation to Moscow to discuss economic relations and

take measures to stabilise the local economy and help pen-Crimea has been one of the focal points of discord with Russia in the two years since

the collapse of the Soviet Un-Russia's parliament last July claimed the Black Sea Fleet headquarters of Sevastopol as Russian territory, enraging even moderate Ukrainians and prompting a censure motion from the United Nations

Security Council.

level guerrilia war to reinforce demands for an advisory rule Diplomats said Monday both sides hoped to use the dry season to gain a military advantage. The Khmer Rouge holds about ten per cent of Cambodian territory at pre-

It continues to wage a low-

Normally a voice of moderation, Cambodia's First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh earlier expressed his frustration at the lack of progress towards national reconciliation by describing the Khmer Rouge demands as "not realistic.

The Khmer Rouge was "insincere" and did not appear to want to recognise the Cambodian government despite insisting it be a member of the same administration, he said.

The focus of renewed fighting is expected to be in Siem Reap province where government troops are mobilising to capture the insurgents' northern headquarters at Anlong

support TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's fragile ruling coalition got wide

support at a public hearing Monday for its political reform legislation, only two days before it faces a vote on the anti-corruption measures it has pledged to implement. All indications are that the vote will be very close. Even

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who has staked his political future on their approval, admits the outcome is difficult to predict. At Monday's public hearing one witness, recommended by

Centre in Golden, Co., registered the quake at 6.6 on the the opposition Liberal Demo-Richter Scale, according to spokesman John Minsch. The epicenter was in the San-Fernando Valley, southeast of Los Angeles, said Kate Hutton, a seismologist at the Cali-

fornia Institute of Technology A Cable News Network (CNN) reporter said he could see the glow of a fire in the San Fernando Valley and residents

Prof. Nishi was one of the six

house. But Mr. Hosokawa, who has threatened to resign if the bills do not get approved, said there

"I am barely estimating the vote count. Indeed, it is difficult to estimate it." he said. Mr. Hosokawa may be forced to resign or dissolve the lower house for fresh elections if the

On Wednesday, the bills will be first put to the vote in the Upper House Committee on Political Reform and then to the 252-seat full chamber in

The LDP, which lost its 38year grip on power in elections

election.

reducing the size of the electoral district from plural to single seat constituencies, and electing a section of the lower house by proportional representa-

critics argue it will not end the influence of money in politics.

mands were met.

mostly indigenous people of Chiapas, an impoverished state

"We have declared this war for many reasons, most impor-

who had been fingered by the mayor, were turned over to troops Sunday poured into Oxchuc and the surrounding hills

Camacho Solis, said the president's amnesty covers soldiers as well as rebels involved in the

"We have begun real nego-

Zapatista fighters seized San

police would react. You have so much control but why cause panic?," he said, adding "the next time, man.' mimed thee felt stiff Germinal tops

nominations for

AVORIAZ, France (AFP) —

Germinal, the lavish Claude

Berri film of Emile Zola's clas-

sic about a mining town in 19th.

century France, walked away

with 12 nominations for Cesar

Awards, it was announced

here Sunday. The film, the

most expensive French produc-

tion yet, sold six million tickets

here and pushed the sales of

Zola's novel to 700,000 issues

in 1993 but won disappointing

reviews despite its stars Gerard

Departieu and Mion-Mion.

Among other leading conten-

ders for the awards was the

acclaimed Three Colours -

Blue, the first part of Krzysztof

Kieslowksi trilogy starring

Juliette Binoche as a widow

remaking her life in isolation

from the world after the death

of her child and composer hus-

band. The film picked up nine

nominations including Binoche

as best actress, while other

leading contenders with the

same number of nominations

were Jean-Marie Poire's hit

The Visiters and Smoking/No

Smoking, a two-film adapta-tion by Alain Resnais of work

by British playwright Alast Ayckbourn. Nominees for best

actor include Pierre Arditi,

Daniel Auteuil, Christian Cla-

vier, Michel Boujenah and

Jean Reno. Best actress

nominations went to Catherine

Deneuve, Sabine Azema, Josiane Balasko, Binoche,

Anouk Grimberg and Miou-

Mion. The awards are to be

announced at a ceremony on

Cesar Awards

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EUROPEAN SOCCER

Romario punch earns red card

PARIS (AFP) - Barcelona's Brazilian star Romario was sent off for the first time in the Spanish league Sunday for punching Sevilla's Diego Simeone in the face.

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Though the match ended goalless, leaving "Barca" three points behind leaders Deportivo La Coruna, Romario's left jab ensured the Catalonian club kept in the headlines this weekend. The 27-year-old Brazilian striker was immediately sent off.

Barcelona's Dutch coach Johann Cruyff said after the match: "Romario did not have to retaliate against Simeone."

Romario came on for Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov for the last half-hour and had only been on the field 15 minutes when the incident happened. Simeone appeared to have provoked Romario.

Spain's media was surprised by the incident as Romario. who tops the league's goal charts with 16, is not a volatile player.

Barcelona should have ear-

lier taken advantage of 10-man Sevilla when Manuel Jimenez was sent off just after the break.

Meanwhile Romario's Brazilian colleagues in La Coruna's team had a better weekend as Mauro da Silva and Bebeto scored in a 3-1 victory at Valencia in the mid-point of the Spanish season.

Barragan Claudio got the other for Deportivo and Jose Galvez had earlier opened the scoring for Valencia.

Xavier Escaich had an incredible game for sporting Gijon with four goals in their 7-1 win over Osasuna Pampiona. Croatia'a Mario Stanik hit two and Fernandez Abelardo the other as Gijon regained third

Polish striker Jocek Ziober scored for Pamplona, but it did not prevent them dropping to the foot of the table. Lerida's goalless draw at home to racing Santander was enough to bring them up from bottom spot.

An early goal from Emilio Butragueno and two penalties from Gonzalez Michel earned fourth-placed Real Madrid a 3-2 victory over nine-man real Zaragoza. Arias Belsue was sent off in the first half hour and Fernando Caceres received his marching orders in

In Italy, AC Milan's third 0-0 draw running, in front of 40,000 spectators at Genoa, propelled them further ahead.

the second half.

Milan lie three points ahead as Sampdoria could not capitalise on the neighbourly act of Genoa, who share the same Luigi Ferraris Stadium.

Champions Milan were found wanting up front despite the presence of Jean-Pierre Papin in his first league match after suspension for headbut-

But Papin, who scored against Parma in the European Super Cup in midweek, was tightly marked and failed to impose himself.

Montenegro's Dejean Savicevic was also virtually in-visible in Milan's midfield. Sampdoria were well beaten 2-1 at lowly Piacenza. Marco

Piovanni opened the scoring for Piacenza on the half hour and Marco Ferrante put them two ahead a quarter of an hour after the break.

Bald winger Attilio Lombardo struck home an 83rd minute penalty, but Sampdoria failed to find an equaliser in the closing minutes.

England's David Platt was brought into the match on 72 minutes, but was unable to prevent "Samp's". fifth league loss this season.

Depleted Juventus moved into second place on goal difference with their second draw running against midtable opposition.

Giovanni Trapattoni's men drew 0-0 at home to as Roma but both sides had a man sent off. Juventus' German defender Jurgen Kohler and Roma's Walter Bonacina were sent off

Kerrigan returns to the ice

STONEHAM, Massachusetts (Agencies) — Olympian Nancy Kerrigan skated here Sunday for the first time since she was attacked at the US figure skating championships, saying her injured knee felt stiff but men sotherwise all right.

¥and it took some time to get loosened up," Kerrigan said. "But it felt good to be on the ice again.

Ketrigan avoided reporters and spectators by slipping out to a local rink at 2:00 a.m., accompanied by some family members and orthopedic specialist doctor Mahlon Bradley. She did not attempt any

jumps. She was scheduled to skate again Monday.

Kerrigan suffered a severely bruised right knee when a man bashed her on the leg with a metal club Jan. 6 as she left a practice session at the national championships in Detroit. The bodyguard of rival ska-

ter Tonya Harding has been charged with conspiracy in the case, along with two other

"My knee was a little still women's title in Kerrigan's absence and both women were named to the US team for the Lillehammer Olympics.

Kerrigan is scheduled to perform a full programme before a special group of judges Feb. 6 to determine if she is fit for the games. The US team is to leave for Norway Feb. 9, and the Olympics begin Feb. 12.

Meanwhile, Harding took the offensive in her fight to save her Olympic berth, insisting she had nothing to do with the attack on Kerrigan and expressing anger that anyone in her camp might have.

GOREN BRIDGE

with omar sharif & Tannah Hirsch

TRUMP COUP TOMMY TOILS AWAY

The bidding:
West North East South
3 \$\phi_1\$ Pass Pass 4 \$\phi\$
Pass 4 \$\pi\$ Pass 5 \$\phi\$
Pass 8 \$\phi\$ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ◆
Was 1993 finally going to be
Tommy's year? Readers of this col-Tommy's year? Readers of this col-um are aware of Trump Coup. Tommy's uncanny ability to play well only when trumps are breaking badly and there seemed to be an epidemic of poor splits at the club. Credit for reaching alam really belongs to Tommy's partner. Since North had not promised anything of value, Tommy's cue-bid followed by

a jump over game showed a hand virtually capable of taking II tricks on its own and North judged that three-card support and a doubleton

on its own and North judged that three-card support and a doubleton was worth a trick.

West made the normal lead of the queen of clubs and the spectators were beginning to wonder how Tommy would find a way to go down. Then everything changed. On the second round of trumps. West discarded a club. The change that overcame Tommy was almost as radical as the metamorphosis of Mr. Hyde from Dr. Jekyll.

To bring home the contract Tommy would have to find East with four diamonds and at least two clubs. After cashing the remaining high club, Tommy played off three high diamonds, then ruffed a dismond in dummy. Fortunately, everyone followed. Tommy could now claim the slam.

Dummy's last club was led and, since East could not afford to ruff, the defender discarded a heart. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts and exited with a heart. Tommy did not mind which defender won, because the last two cards in the East hand were J 9 of trumps

er won, because the last two cards in the East hand were J 9 of trumps and Tommy held Q 10. Since East's trumps were trapped. Temmy's slam was in the bag.

Neo-Nazis go on trial in attack on American But Juventus were Massimo athletes Carrera, Brazilian Julio Cesar,

together after a clash two mi-

Dino Baggio, Andrea Fortuna-

Lazio's Roberto di Matteo

and Roberto Cravero earned a

2-0 victory at home to Reg-giana. Di Matteo scored on the

stroke of half-time and

Cravero fired home a penalty

five minutes after the break.

excellently marshalled the mid-

field and managed to complete

the whole match, as Lazio

wiped away the memory of

their 4-1 loss to Foggia the

Fifth-placed Parma drew 1-1

Andrea Silenzi went further

Torino held Atalanta to a

ahead in the goal scoring charts

2-2 draw. Silenzi hit his 13th

league goal five minutes before

the break, but Maurizio Codis-

poti equalised just before the

hosts Atalanta the advantage,

before Paolo Poggi earned his

In France, Paris of St Ger-

main and Olympique Marseille

stole the show here this

weekend, as Bordeaux failed

to capitalise on an ill-tempered

draw between France's top two

PSG maintained their four

point lead over Marseille, the

European champions, after a

1-1 draw at the Parc des

Princes saw fists and boots fly.

ploited that stalemate, and

gone to within a point of Marseille, by a winning visit to

sixth-placed Nantes Saturday

first-team regulars missing

were trounced 4-1 by a club

looking for a UEFA Cup place

next season. Bordeaux also

had Dutch international

Richard Witschge sent off in

the 67th minute for a bookable

Marseille also had fullback

Jocelyn Angloma sent off 20

minutes from the end for a

lunging tackle on PSG fullback

Patrick Colleter. Vincent

Guerin opened the scoring for

PSG and Rudi Voller equal-

In Belgium, Anderlecht

maintained their four point lead from FC Bruge with a 2-1 win at RC Liege. Ajax Am-

sterdam's 4-1 win at home to

Maastricht kept them two

points clear in Holland.

offence.

ised.

Instead, a side with three

Bordeaux could have ex-

Roberto Rambaudi gave

at bottom club Lecce in a late

week before.

match Sunday.

half-time whistle.

side a valuable point.

England's Paul Gascoigne

nutes before half-time.

to and Gianluca Vialli.

SUHL. Germany (AP) - Two young German neo-Nazis accused of attacking a member of the U.S. luge team last fall went on trial Monday,

The Oct. 29 attack caused outrage in the United States. and cast further doubt on Germany's ability to cope with its extreme rightist menace.

Prosecutors have charged the two neo-Naziz with causing grievous bodily harm. The suspects, Tino Voelkel, 16, and 21-year-old Silvio Eschrich, could receive up to five years in prison if convicted.

The trial was expected to last only one day.

According to the indictment, the two led a pack of about 15 neo-Nazi skinheads in kicking and punching American lugeteam member Duncan Kennedy outside a bar in the winter resort of Oberhof near Suhl in eastern Germany.

Kennedy stood his ground so that teammate Robert Pipkins could get away from the attackers. The skinheads had insulted Pipkins, who is black, by making monkey noises nad gestures and by calling him

Kennedy, during his testimony, identified the two skinheads on trial as his assailants. "Out of the people hitting me. I could only see two or

three facecs, and they were the faces I saw," Kennedy said, referring to the two defendants. Two skinhead witnesses,

Dennis Schmidt and Joerg Stubenrauch, testified that the Americans provoked the attack, first by cornering Voelkel, who was wearing a new-Nazi T-shirt. Schmidt and Stubenrauch said Kennedy yelled obscenities against Germany and Nazis.

Kennedy denied he had provoked the assault, adding "Why would I say this to 15 skinheads?" The courthouse in the quiet

reporters and TV crews from Germany, the United States and other countries. Prosecutors have filed charges against five more youths in the attack on Ken-

town of Suhl was besieged by

Kennedy and other U.S. luge waters were in Oberhof during the weekend for World Cup competition, in which Kennedy finished second in the men's singles event Saturday.

International Community School (The British Curriculum School in Amman)

The International Community School, in Khilda, requires a primary teacher from September 1994. The successful applicant must have full British, or equivalent, teaching qualifications and preferably have working knowledge of the U.K. national curriculum. Interested candidates are requested to contact the school office for further details and application form which should be returned to ICS by Thursday, 27th January.

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AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Sampras, Courier, Ivanisevic, Lendl, Novacek, Graff ease into second round

Pete Sampras is taking every precaution to ensure his body stands up to the pressure of two weeks' hard slog at the Australian Open.

The American world number one began his pursuit of a fourth Grand Slam title with a comfortable 6-4 6-0 7-6 win over Australian wildcard Joshua Eagle Monday but admitted he was wary of injury on the unyielding rebound ace courts at Flinders park.

"I've often found the surface is difficult on the body ... There's just no give out there," said Sampras, who suffered from sore shins in Australia 12

months ago.
"On other courts you can slide, here you stick. My body gets a lot more stiff than it does on hardcourts.'

To help ensure his shin problems do not recur, Samoras is again travelling with his own personal massage specialist who was also part of the top seed's entourage during his wins at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year.

In another match, Jim Courier took 4 hours and 42 minutes to subdue feisty fellow American Bryan Shelton Monday and keep alive his dream of a third straight Australian Open title.

Courier rallied from 1-3 and 0-40 in the final set to beat the unheralded Shelton 4-6, 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 6-4.

Courier won five of the last six games in a first-round match that thrilled the centre court crowd on the opening day of the tournament.
"I didn't hide," Courier

said. "I came out and played. 1 put my cards on the table." Shelton, a 28-year-old who has never made it past the third round of any Grand Slam tournament, frequently matched Courier from the backcourt and served and volleyed impressively until he crumpled at the end.

Martin Damm of the Czech republic earlier pulled off the first upset by ousting no. 7 seed Cedric Pioline of France.

Damm, a 21-year-old from Prague ranked 80th in the world to U.S. Open finalist Pioline's ninth, won 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3.
Pioline also lost in the first

round of the Hopman Cup and New South Wales Open and the defeat against Damm capped a disastrous Australian campaign for him.

In other surprises, Sabine Hack of Germany proved too steady for women's no. 11 seed Zina Garrison-Jackson of the United States, winning 7-5, 6-3, while Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia ousted no. 15 seed Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-4,

Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, the fifth seed, downed American Alex O'Brien 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 in an impressive opener.

Ivanisevic showed no signs of discomfort from an injury to his left elbow, ending the match with an ace and an unreturnable serve. He served 15 aces in the one-hour, 20minute match.

"He's a good player, but I played good today," said Ivanisevic. "I served great and my rhythm waas good."

Ivanisevic was cheered by several hundred flag-waving Croatian fans. "I feel like I'm playing at

home," he said. Another power server, Marc Rosset of Switzerland, the no. 11 seed and 1992 Olympic gold medalist, advanced with a 6-2 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 victory over Chris Wilkinson of Britain.

Three-time champion Mats Wilander of Sweden, given a wild card as he continues his comeback, beat Milan Velev of Bulgaria 6-1, 4-6, 6-0, 6-0. Ivan Lendl, the Australian

Open champion in 1989 and 1990 and seeded 15th, took 2 hours, 31 minutes to wear down Canadian Greg Rusedski 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), 7-5 in a match in which the players rarely ventured from the baseline.

Karel Novacek of the Czech republic, seeded 14th, also advanced with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Daniel Orsanic of Argentina.

Courier, the no. 3 seed, is aiming to become only the third man to win three straght Australian titles. Courier clenched his fist in

relief and triumph after sealing victory with a searing back-hand crosscourt as Shelton, ranked 99th in the world, adv-

her smile.

Jim Courier

anced to the net. "He played well on a lot of the big points at the end of the match," Courier said.

"I can play better, and the encouraging thing is that I get a chance to do that.' Shelton, who mixed 20 aces

with 20 double faults, had an explanation for his slump. "I was already preparing my acceptance speech out there," he said.

In the women's singles. three-time champion Steffi Graf, an overwhelming favourite in the absence of Monica Seles, took just 23 minutes to clinch her place in the second round.

The top-seeded German, chasing her fourth straight title in Grand Slam events, led American Kimberly Po 6-1, 2-0 when Po withdrew with a stomach muscle strain.

Graf raced through the first

set in 16 minutes : affective start with her in agger Wil-

Graf, 24, is a sing her 80th career title and 15th Grand Slam victory in the absence of archrival Seles, winner of the Australian Open for the past three years, Graf won the

event between 1988-1990.
"Sure it's gifferent with Monica not being here, but I'm not thinking about it now that . I'm playing the tournament," Graf said.

Seles had hoped to make her comeback at the Australian Open, but still has not recovered from being stabbed in the back by a spectator during a match April in Hamburg.

Graf next faces Australian Nicole Provis, a 7-5, 6-4 winner over Clare Wood of Britain. Provis beat Graf last year in the Federation Cup.

Anke Huber, the no. 7 seed, oined compatriots Graf and Hack in the second round after defeating Leila Meskhi of Georgia 6-1, 6-3 in impressive

Huber reversed a loss to Meskhi last week in Sydney and said she had played more aggressively.

No. 12 seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa downed Petra Begerow of Germany 6-1, 6-3, and no. 16 Lindsay Davenport, a 17-year-old American, rallied to defeat Canadian Patricia Hy 3-6, 6-2,

Former U.S. Open champion Tracy Austin, playing in her first Grand Slam event in a decade, beat South African Elna Reinach 6-1, 7-5.

The tournament, played on synthetic rebound ace hard courts, is sponsored by Ford and continues through Jan. 30.

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building renovation and the local manufacturing of school furniture will be effected through international competitive bidding. Contracts for a total value of approximatively US\$300,000 are foreseen. Tender documents may be obtained from UNEDBAS, P.O. Box 2270, Tel: 606559, Fax: 682183, Amman, Jordan. The bid closing date is Monday 7

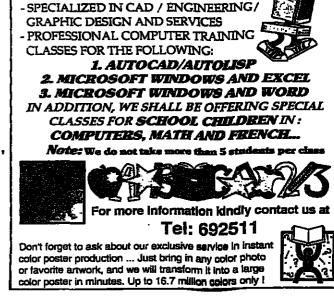
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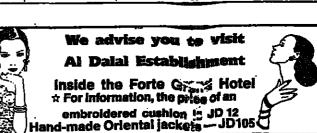
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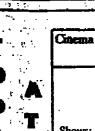
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Lebanon praises Geneva summit as breakthrough

I EIRUT (Agencies) — Lebaton on Monday hailed the Ceneva s' et n between U.S. Lesident is Linton and Syr an Preside a lefez Al Assad 83 bringing U Aiddle East a s ap closer to phace.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri s :id Sunday's summit was "hist vric" and praised Mr. Assad's s and.

The summit "opens a new Tige which we expect will lead to a just, comprehensive and l sting peace." Mr. Hariri told r.porters.

U.S. Secretary of State Warran Christopher telephoned Nir. Hariri after the summit to it rief him on the meeting, stress ng that Lebanon was discuss:d at length in Geneva.

South Lebanon is the last battle line between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Twentyfive Israeli soldiers were killed tiere last year in bomb attacks and clashes with guerrillas.
Mr. Hariri told Beirut Radio

ti:at Mr. Assad raised the issue of U.N. Security Council Res lution 425 of 1978 which calls & r Israeli withdrawal from its 1 -kilometres wide occupation z me in the south.

He said he felt "great relief" a the positions Mr. Assad took during the summit.

"I salute President Assad who included 425 in the order o' the day of this historic summit," Mr. Hariri said.

"The subject of the Israeli it vasion of the south took a major part of the negotiations," he added.

Lebanese and Israeli negotistors have made no known progress on working out terms k s an Israeli withdrawal from the south at 11 rounds of Midd e East peace talks in

K ABUL (Agencies) — War-ring factions shelled each other

s; oradically Monday, but

s...ow, rain and freezing

te inceratures eased the intense

b tile for the capital, that be-

Rival parties worked behind

Bad weather has slowed the

hting on several occasions

si ce the warfare broke out 17

d vs ago between President

B rhanuddin Rabbani's forces

and the main rivals, Prime

N inister Gulbuddin Hekmaty-

a and warlord Rashid Dos-

e itably brings heavier fight-ir 3. Full-scale battles, com-

p ete with air strikes and beavy

si elling, are expected to re-

s me when the weather im-

Some 45 military comman-

crs who belong to smaller

pirties and are largely inde-

p :ndent of the three main fac-

tions, have joined forces to try

However, clear weather in-

ti e scenes to arrange a scease-

fire, but no progress was re-

g: n Jan. 1.

Bad weather brings

Iull in Kabul fighting

did not say at their Geneva news conference whether they also discussed the withdrawal of Syria's 35,000 troops from Lebanon.

But Mr. Clinton said Mr. Assad had agreed that the Middle East peace process should lead to a "fr ee and independent" Lebanon. Mr. Hariri called the Gene-

va summit a turning point for the peace process. He said Mr. Christopher told him in a telephone conversation after the summit that 1994 would be "a year of peace in the Middle

Mr. Assad deserved the thanks of the Lebanese people for the stand he took with Mr. Clinton on South Lebanon. Mr. Hariri said.

President Assad has serious and honourable stands in this matter.... that will gain the appreciation of the Lebanese people and government," he

Foreign Minister Farez Bouez said that "the principle of a comprehensive peace, which both Lebanon and Syria have repeatedly called for, has been adopted in Geneva."

"A clear signal that agreement was reached at least on major issues" emerged from the summit, Mr. Bouez said. Lebanon's leading newspap-

"Up until yesterday Syria was the problem but today, after the Geneva meeting, it is the solution," wrote Ghassan Tueni, a veteran politician and owner of Al Nahar newspaper.

Under a banner headline reading the "Lion's share" — a reference to Mr. Assad whose name in Arabic means lion the editor-in-chief of L'Orient-

Mr. Rabbani on Monday after

seeing Mr. Hekmatyar on Sun-

day at his base in Charasyab.

just south of the capital. But

there are no signs of progress

Both leaders again made de-mands that have been rejected

previously, according to milit-

ary sources who requested

Mr. Rabbani, whose mei

control most of the capital,

wants Mr. Hekmatyar to hand

have been killed this months.

nave fled the battered city.

Shelling forced cabinet

ministers to shift a scheduled

meeting from the prime minis-

ter's palace, in central Kabul,

over his heavy weapons.

OIC urges U.N. to authorise

air strikes "The Clinton-Assad meeting marks a turning-point in the GENEVA (AFP) - The evolution of peace efforts, Organisation of the Islamic even if it is still a long way before a new Middle East can

Conference (OIC) called Mon-day on U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to authorise air strikes "without deagainst Bosnian Serb

Foreign ministers from leading nations of the OIC met here with Dr. Ghali to urge the U.N. to follow through on a pledge at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit to use air strikes.

"We hope that this NATO declaration will not be construed as an empty threat and that it will not be the subject of procedural wrangling," said OIC Secretary General Hamid

Algabid.
"We request that the U.N. secretary-general authorise such strikes without delay,' Dr. Algabid said.

Sabbah rejects criticism of Vatican-Israel accord

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michael Sabbah Monday dismissed criticism over the Dec. 30 agreement on mutual recognition between Israel and the Vatican saying that the church should not be absent from the scene at this crucial juncture in the region's history.
"This is a historic and crucial

stage that the region is passing through," Patriarch Sabbah said during a press conference held at the bishop's office. "The church should not be absent at this stage especially that Christians have been liv-

years.' He said that this presence was both a right and duty that the church had to fulfill.

ing in this region since 2,000

"In order to exercise an effective presence, the church and to organise its relations it all concerned parties," he pointed out. "And that's why the church spoke equally to Israel, Jordan, the Palestinians and all concerned Arab countries through their embassies."

He said the "voice of believers" who have prayed and who have faith in the land, should be heard. Those believers, he added, have rights and duties and have their own vision of the methods used to reach equitable solution for the parties oppressed. According to Patriarch Sab-

bah, the Vatican's recognition of Israel was linked to "eliminating injustices" that befell the Palestinian peoples. "In principle, the injustice is lifted," he said. "In reality, it

didn't.... but negotiations are underway and the two peoples are organising bilateral rela-The accord, which is ex-

ected to be followed by a visit of Pope John Paul to the Holv Land, did not dwell on the Jerusalem issue save for the



Michel Sabbah

fact that "the two sides recognise the unique nature and significance of the holy city to them and to the rest of the world."

'The agreement did not tackle the Jerusalem issue for a very single reason: Jerusalem is of particular concern to more than the two parties — the Vatican and Israel," he said. There is also the religious parties who represent the Arab and Muslim worlds, the Christian world and the Jewish world. The presence of all of these parties is a must in order to enhance logical debate over the Jerusalem issue."

Princess Diana mobbed by fans after ballet visit

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sparked a security alert when she was mobbed by well-wishers after going to a ballet performant without her royal bodyguards, British newspaper reported

Moncay. The tabloid Sun said Princess Diana was mobbed in the sends cable touched her and insisted she stopped to Cliff and shake hands as she left Long touched her and insisted she stopped to Cliff and shake hands as she left Long the stopped princes was the stopped princed. Tuesday The princess was the stopped Tuesday. and shake hands as she left Long the form princes frown the princess was the form of the f princess, who is officially sepa-similar productions of the throne Prince Charles, it is conducted announced late last year that she promodulences over announced late last year that she can the carthout from her public duties as a mem-of the carthout to lead a more private life away position (alifornia from the media spotlight. The significant in Was Sun quoted a former senior plant of Jordanians ting herself up to be attacked by sinkern California terrorists, kidnappers and a caranks." ngent condo phier's famil

parliament faces perks cuts

OTTAWA (AFP) - Prime

Human race faces destruction

LONDON (R) — The human Today tabloid. "If we go on like this there will be conflict, misery and famine like there is in Somaadvances and the use of without really knowing where it is without really knowing where it is wither sundawn on a book on the issue, said parents now living longer and exhausting natural resources.

throws party for 60th birthday

NEW YORK (R) - Diva Marilyn Horne threw a 60th birthday party for herself at Carnegie Hall Sunday, with some of the world's greatest singers on stage and in the wildly applauding audience. The Metropolitan Opera's Samuel Ramey made & surprise appearance to sing Old Man River to bring the packed house down after appearances by old Horne friends Montserral Caballe and Frederica Von Stade and young proteges Ruth Ann Swenson and Renee Fleming. Fleming wiped tears from her eyes after Horne ended the party singing the spiritual At The River and veteran Metropolitan Opera star Helen Donat made her Carnegie Hall debut filling in for the ill Benita Valente and had the whole audience singing with her during a song from Lehar's The Merry Widow. The audience knew it was not going to be just another concert when Luciano Pavarotti showed up and took a seat in the orchestra winning applause and shouts of "bravo" for just turning up. The audience was dotted with singers and composers helping the woman they call "Jackie" celebrate her 60th birth-

Yeltsin accepts Gaidar's resignation, insists on reforms "For a long time, it was impossible for Gaidar to implegovernment policy, in particu-

ment building.

same time," he said.

Russia's Choice, the party

which Mr. Gaidar led in De-

cember ballots, said in a state-

ment that the government "is

progressively moving away from policies of stabilisation

and reform, despite its de-

ture had been the "only possi-ble measure" he could take.

lav Kostikov said Mr. Gaidar's

departure would "seriously weaken the reformist wing" of

Mr. Yeltsin's administration.

He added that Mr. Yeltsin

would meet Prime Minister

Viktor Chernomyrdin Tuesday

to discuss the make-up of the

government's programme fol-lowing Mr. Gaidar's resigna-

Legislator and reform-

minded economist Grigory

Yavlinsky, mentioned as a

possible Gaidar successor, said

It said Mr. Gaidar's depar-

Yeltsin spokesman Viaches-

clared faith in this plicy."

MOSCOW (Agencies) -President Boris Yeltsin accepted the resignation of his top economic reformer Mon-

The resignation on Sunday of Yegor Gaidar, first deputy prime minister and architect of Russia's market reforms, stunned political circles and put the rouble into a tailspin.

Mr. Gaidar's departure was seen as a severe blow to his planned reforms programme and could be followed by those of a number of other key reformers in his government. Mr. Yeltsin paid tribute in a statement to Mr. Gaidar's

"courage and his contribution to the advance of economic reforms" and expressed "understanding for the arguments and reasons which led him to submit his resignation." In accepting Mr. Gaidar's

departure, the Russian leader stressed "his unshakeable commitment to democratic reforms of Russian society, its economy and its political institutions. the communique said.

Mr. Yeltsin said the reform would continue "in line with Russia's national and strategic interests."

First Deputy Premier Gaidar announced his resignation Sunday, citing differences with

Mr. Gaidar's departure would have little effect because he has long been a figurehead with no real power.

lar decisions to bring Belarus ment his line in the govern-ment," Mr. Yavlinsky said. The government, like the into the rouble zone and to build a new \$500 million parlia-"I cannot be in the government and oposed to it at the

country, is deeply divided over the direction and pace of economic reform. Since the election, Mr. Yelt-

sin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin have been talking about a "correction" and plan a cabinet shuffle this week. Reformers have been worried that the shakeup would further enhance the influence of the "go slow" faction. A new emphasis on social.

programme could mean huge inflation fuelling subsidies for ailing state factories and militray enterprises — something Mr. Gaidar opposes.

His resignation came one day after the conclusion of a summit in which Mr. Yeltsin assured President Bill Clinton about his determination to continue reforms.

U.S. officials tried to play down the significance of Mr. Gaidar's reggnation.

"I'm disappointed," acknowledged U.S. Treasury

Secretary LLoyd Bentsen, who was in Moscow for the summit. "But we're not backing a person, we're backing an economic point of view for a coun-

Algerian army 'will be neutral'

ALGIERS (Agencies) -Eight days ahead of a key conference on Algeria's political future, Defence Minister General Lamine Zeroual said Sunday the army would stay neutral, but warned opposition parties not to boycott the

In a televised address after,

confessions given by detainees. The defendants retracted their confessions in court, saying they had been made

"If the authorities have nothing to hide, it would be in their interest to introduce such basic and long-overdue safe-

The 10 men were convicted of a plot to kill the King during a cadets' graduation ceremony at Muta University last June.

Warring Semali factions gave

mixed reactions Monday to a

peace treaty between Moga-

dishu's clans and stressed that

it fell far short of settling their

Self-styled Interim President

Ali Mahdi Mohammad wel-

comed the agreement signed

Sunday by traditional leaders

of his Abgal sub-clan and the

Habr Gedir of his enemy, fac-

tional leader Mohammad

"It is the first step in a broad

peacemaking process," he told

reporters. But he added: "We

have a long way to go," and

described the treaty as "fragile

Issa Mohammad Siad, fore-

ign affairs secretary of General

Aideed's Somali National

Alliance (SNA) faction, de-

Appearing to reject the trea-

ty, he sent word through an

clined to talk to reporters.

political differences.

Farah Aideed.

and delicate.

Removing army chiefs from the central committee of the

the main news bulletin. Gen. Zeroual said the army would "not allow itself to be the instrument of any party."

But recalling the landmark divorce of the army from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), Gen. Zeroual said: "The army's withdrawal from the political stage five years ago does not mean that it rill stand back with its arms Olded when faced with cangerous situations that

tion parties that it was a "natural duty" to attend the conference on Jan. 25 and 26 in a bid to get the country out of the political impasse of the past

aide that the SNA would not

comment on it "because it was

Some parties have expressed doubts about the weight being given to the conference, believing that there are other ways of finding a solution.

FLN in 1989 marked the start of the transition from oneparty stage to multi-party democracy. Democratisation was effec-

tively suspended in January 1992 to prevent the fun-damentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) from winning pow-er in the second round of a general election.

Fundamentalists have frequently attacked the security forces, and since November have been waging a campaign against foreigners. The latest victim, 45-year-old

French consular employee Monique Afri, was shot dead in Algiers on Saturday, the 26th foreigner and fourth since late September.

Some 50 Islamic fundamentalists have been freed from a detention centre at 'Ain M'guel in the far south, where they were held for more than a year, the Al Watan daily reported Monday. Further releases were ex-

pected within coming weeks... the newspaper said. The move was announced

last week by the spokesman of the National Dialogue Commission (CDN), Abdul Kader Benslah, at the behest of political parties due to meet in the national conference. The president of the official

National Human Rights Observatory, Kamel Rezag-Bara, has said 780 people remain detained at 'Ain M'guel and at Oued Namous in the southwest of Algeria.

The president of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights. Abdul Nour ali Yahia, has for his part put the number of detainees at almost

the rank-and-file to make

wishes of his people."

Mr. Ali Mahdi said the based factions had failed.

different" because it marked

with all their weight."

U.N.'s earlier attempts to mediate between the clan-But he stressed that Sunday's treaty was "completely

no role in 'Iraqgate' LONDON (Agencies) — Prime

Major says

Minister John Major Monday testified he neither participated in nor had knowledge of British military sales to Iraq in the years preceding the Gulf war in violation of a U.N. embargo. "I am very reluctant to make

a judgement with hindsight about what might have been in the minds of ministers some years earlier," he told the Scott inquiry looking into the sales.

Mr. Major, the first serving prime minister to be grilled at an official inquiry, went further than any other witness in Lord Justice Scott's "Iraqgate" probe by contesting testimony that rules had in fact been secretly altered by ministers in

"The first time I was actually aware that guidelines had been looked at in 1988 and a change considered was actually ton 13th November 1992," said Mr. Major, who insisted he was never involved in administrating or interpreting the

Mr. Major said it was the main job of the inquiry he set up in November 1992 to decide whether the government had knowingly broken its rules governing arms sales to Iraq before the war, which began ex-

actly three years ago on Jan. Aides maintain Mr. Maior has nothing to fear from the inquiry and his links to "Iraqgate" are peripheral. Foreign secretary for four months in 1989. Mr. Major was then chancellor of the exchequer (finance minister) before taking over as prime minister in

November 1990 from Margaret Thatcher. Lord Scott and Presiley Baxendale, the counsel to the inquiry, repeatedly pressed Mr. Major on why he maintained in letters to members of parliament and ordinary Britons that the guidelines were unchanged in the late 1980s from those established in 1984.

Earlier witnesses, including ministers who were involved. said these regulations had been relaxed in late 1988 to . Iraq's advantage. Mr. Major's first big decision as foreign secretary in July 1989 was whether to sell Hawk trainer aircraft to Iraq.

Mr. Major said he did not see several letters and memoranda in which a relaxation of policy towards Iraq was mentioned. He said that while a relaxation may have been considered, he was unsure whether it had actually been implemented. Whether it was a change of

rules is not for me to judge," he said. "With very great respect it is not for me to reach the conclusion that I have asked the inquiry to reach. Pressed on the details of

answers he had given on the sales to the Labour opposition during House of Commons question time. Mr. Major finally shot back: "If you mean, was I making a cunning and clever distinction to hide something I didn't want to

reveal, the answer is 'no'." Robin Cook. Labour's shadow trade and industry secretary, afterward termed Mr. Major's testimony "both clear and discreditable. "His alibi is that he did not

know what was going on in the department for which he was responsible," said Cook.

Canadian

taxpayer more than five million dollars (\$3.75 million) a year.

Top surgeon:

race faces destruction because medical advances have led to ROME(R) - The Itali overpopulation, a top British ment issued a decree surgeon said in a newspaper interview published Monday. "World population is increasing at a rate ther lew objecte which is unsustainable," Sir Roy a muld have to you Calne, professor of surgery at Cambridge University and the head of Britain's first liver transplant programme in 1968, told the lia. my main thesis is that most of our troubles are due to scientific advances and the use of science worldwide should have only two children because people were

Marilyn Horne

Iryani quits Yemeni cabinet over census S ANAA (Agencies) — Yernen Planning and Development Ninister Abdul Karim Al

Is vani, an influential northe ner, has quit has post — the first ministerial resignation of a: acute political crisis between north and south. Yemen's two main political pirties have been feuding for months and accuse each other

massing troops along the border which divided north a.:d south into separate: states a itil 1990. But the issue which sparked N.r. Iryani's. departure was a national census, due to be ex mpleted in five days time, the

Mithaq reported Monday. Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, a southerner. his scrapped the count and Mr. Irvani, a former forcial crinister and a supporter of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. resigned in protest, Al Mithaq

northern newspaper Al

The Yemen Socialist Party. ('SP), which is headed by V ce-President Ali Salem Al Bedh and ruled the south before unification, accused Mr. Salem's General People feuding leaders last week to Congress (GPC) on Sunday of settle their differences by an oving troops towards the for-Tuesday lest the political and

mer borders and smuggling weapons into the south. Mr. Saleh's party responded that the charges were a cover ur of the YSP's own troop m ements towards the former

The two parties are nominal-

ly partners in the national government but since July each has effectively controlled its own part of the country and

stationed there. Political sources said that Mr. Attas told Mr. Iryani the census, on which \$25 million has been spent, was not being carried out in a professional way and was badly timed because of the political crisis.

commanded the armed forces

The north has a much bigge copulation than the south. Political sources said the census result could have fuelled the fears of southern leaders of domination by the north. Differences between Mr.

Saleh and Mr. Beedh have paralysed the government machinery, caused serious economic problems and raised concern about the viability of the country, one of the Arab World's poorest. An all-party national dia-

logue committee trying since November to bridge the gap between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh is expected to come up with recommendations for a settlement. The committee told the two

economic crisis split the country once again. The local currency, the Yemeni rial, has dropped sharply against the U.S. dollar since the beginning of the year. sending the prices of staple

Amnesty concerned by trial

le Jour daily stressed that the

Geneva summit was a turning

take shape," Issa Goraieb said.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Assad called for a "peace of the brave" in 1994.

Lebanon and Syria are ex-

pected to return to the nego-

tiating table with Israel next

Lebanon insists at Middle

East peace negotiationss that

Israel withdraw from the south

in accordance with Resolution

425 and says the Lebanese

army will then establish secur-

ity in the south, disarming

guerrillas and preventing furth-

States want an agreement on

security arrangements before

the Israelis agree to withdraw. Israel wants the formation of

a joint commission with Leba-

non to work out security

arrangements but Beirut says

the Israelis must leave first.

guerrillas "quite a force to be reckoned with" and say they

do not trust the Hizbollah

movement to refrain from

attacks on Israel after Israeli

believe that Syria holds the key

to giving Israel the security

guarantees in South Lebanon

They say no arms or supplies

can reach Hizbollah without

Syria's agreement and Syrian

troops could cut off supplies

and disarm the guerrillas if Damascus gives the order.

The United States and Israel

troops pull out.

that it demands.

Diplomats in Beirut call the

But Israel and the United

er attacks on Israel.

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said Monday it was concerned at aspects of a military trial that convicted 10 men of plotting to kill King Hussein, including allegations of torture and forced confes-

The London-based human rights organisation also urged commute death sentences handed down against three of the men by the military tribun-

Mr. Hekmatyar wants Mr. received long jail terms. Rabbani to resign and Amnesty, which had obserannounce a pian for national vers at the trial, said it was particularly concerned at the Hospital officials in Kabul lengthy pre-trial detention of say at least 7,000 people have the defendants, allegations of been wounded and hundreds

> their choice. "Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the continued practice of prolonged incommunicado detention in Jordan, as it facilitates torture and ill-treatment and

to the Intercontinental Hotel in the Safer western suburbs. compromises the right of a fair trial." a statement said. Amnesty said the lack of what it called fundamental safeguards during pre-trial de-

under torture whilst they were

guards," Amnesty said.

al on Sunday. Seven othres

torture during this time and lack of access to doctors of Also, at least 50,000 residents

tention also cast doubt on the validity of any statements or

incommunicado.

threaten the people's future." Gen. Zeroual told opposi-

French national to be killed Somalis give mixed signals on peace deal Decemebr 1992 to help end a

> not a political issue, only an agreement reached at a traditional clan gathering."
>
> SNA supporter Abdi Abshir Kahiye said the clans could settle "smali, local issues like punishing criminals," but their authority did net extend to

big political questions."
The treaty, hammered out by 176 clan elders and religious leaders in three days of talks, calls for the class to live in peace, end the division of Mogadishu and return property looted during the civil war.

But the two warlords them-

selves neither signed the agree-

ment nor attended the talks.

reserved for clan elders and closed to politicians. A vicious power struggle still divides the two men whose fighters gutted Mogadishu in four months of carnage before the first U.S. marines landed in

famine that cost 300,000 lives. Gen. Aideed wants U.N. troops to quit Somalia. But Mr. Alı Mahdi says they must stay to prevent renewed civil war after U.S. forces withdraw in March, a decision prompted by the killings of 25 Americans in clashes with Aideed militia-

Mr. Ali Mahdi said he would comply with the treaty and remove his militiamen from the green line dividing his north Mogadishu enclave from Gen. Aideed's south Mogadishu stronghold. "I hope Aideed will listed to

the talks of influential clansmen of Gen. Aideed, currently in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. But in a sign that peace may still be a distant prospect, Mr. Ali Mahdi demed SNA offi-

the message of peace." Mr. Ali

Mahdi said, adding that we was

encouraged by the presence at

himself held peace talks in Nairobi with representatives of the group of 12 factions led by Mr. Ali Mahdi. He stressed, however, that faction leaders were coming under mounting pressure from

'We are a clan society," Mr. Ali Mahdi said. "If the clan of a given political figure or leader opts for peace and chooses the road of reconciliation and pacification. I believe that leader has to comply with the

"the first time that the community leaders have stepped in LONDON (R) — Princess Diago

Minister Jean Chretien said Sunday that members of parliament will be the first to suffer from a wide range of government exthe new parliament, elected last stepne force in the November, sits for the first time Mr. Chretien's office told the 295 members that they will have to pay commercial rates for cafeteria meals, use of parliament's gymnasium and hair cutters and will be officer Jorda have fewer trips financed by the taxpayer. A free shoe shine service for members is to be abo lished. And if a legislator wants to have a picture framed for the Mextends office, the cost will come out of his pocket. Previously, lawmakers were given an annual allowarto NS 1: WIED NATIONS 1: Warner of \$300 for picture frames. We seems Council or MP's will also get less money for sending "newsletters" - often flinly disguised self-promotional in sadors against it brochures - to their constituents. Government whip Alfonso Gagliano, who drew up the limits, resident of new austerity measures, said Spnday they would save the Canadian

amembers suggest exactions, which is c AMEC INTO THE lalian cabinet :

ने व्यक्षतवातृ landmark Brend elections to ফাল Fassover, state Tad. The measure anoral by parliament in has been dis a party support ar Editely welcomed leash community anctioning t will allow J State Television sa reamons would sta

lasan II denou Mamic extremi: MAT (AP) — King extremism. sar remains a

the movement the for other Arai has violence of persuasi enemies and e its own people 4 said in a letter Scholars from sever the meeting at a M easily. King Hassa to neighbouring neighbouring Making gains in պլի_Օսլ offen ntalist tend in terms of freer The Moro

e is amply cited amic World, it is imple. the len *kov to ente inis week

communist. Zhivkov. 82.

Mafraid of priMa seven-voe in Committee Ser in September